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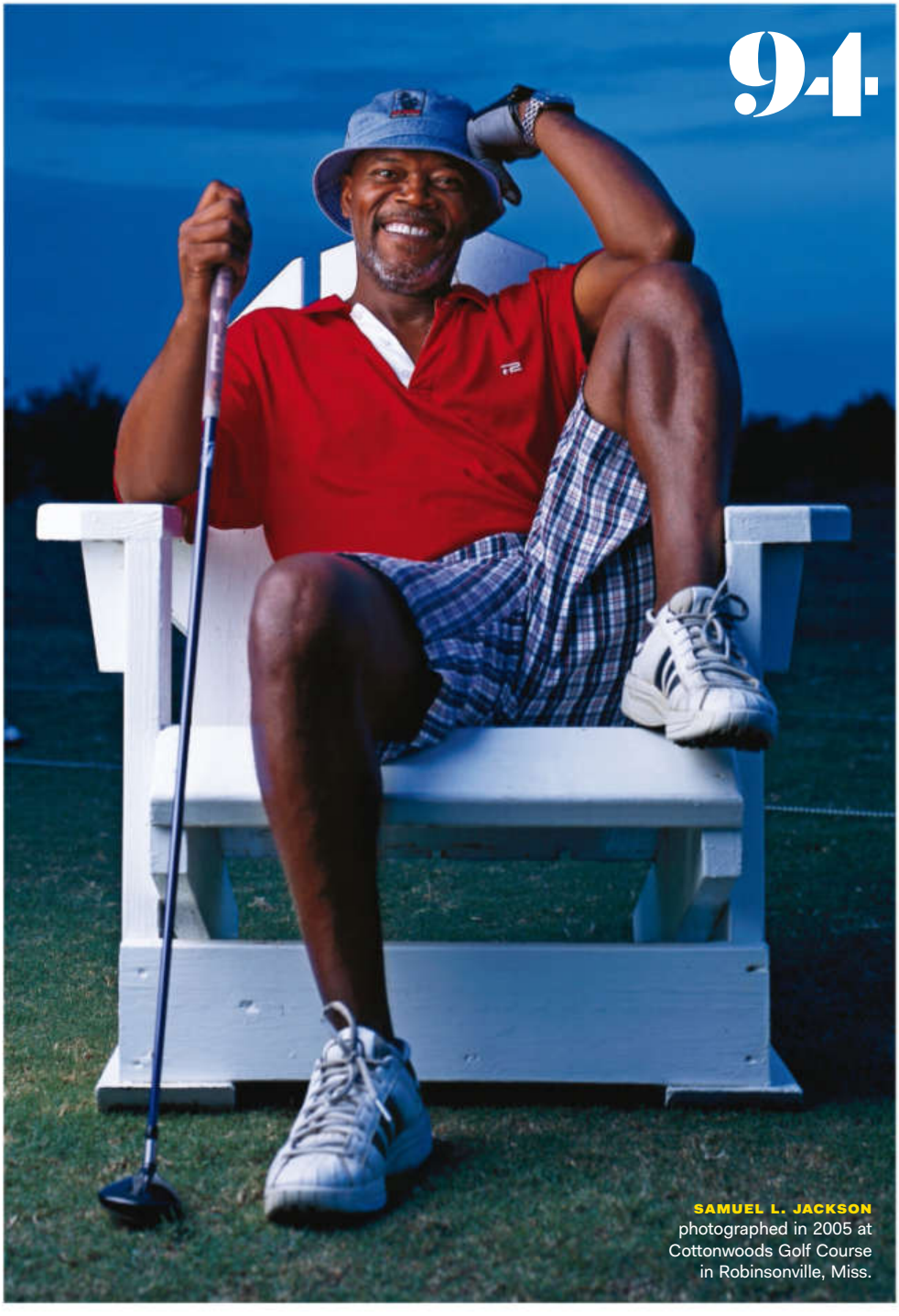

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**SAMUEL L. JACKSON** photographed in 2005 at Cottonwoods Golf Course in Robinsonville, Miss.

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Cover photograph by Walter Iooss Jr.

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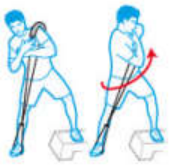
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BROWN BIRD DESIGN



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# Editor's Letter

## The Kid and His Coach

**JERRY TARDE**
*Chairman and Editor-in-Chief*

He started working with Greg Norman in 1992 and brought him back to No. 1 in the world by 1994. He started working with Tiger Woods in 1993 and took him to No. 1 in the world in 1997. He started working with Phil Mickelson in 2007 and helped him revive his career with 12 more PGA Tour victories, including a Masters and a British Open.

In late 2013, Butch Harmon started working with Rickie Fowler, the young kid who looked so promising after winning the 2012 Wells Fargo but couldn't repeat. Rickie picks it up from there:

"I first met Butch playing with Phil in those [high-stakes] games Tuesdays on tour. Butch was easy to be around, fun, a great guy to hang with. So much history. I liked listening to the stories of his dad [1948 Masters champion Claude Harmon]. You know those stories—they usually involved Claude poking his finger into Butch's chest.

"I felt like I was getting the most out of my swing, but even though I'd won on tour, my swing had kind of maxed out. I wanted to become the best golfer I could be. I first hit with Butch for about two hours after missing the cut at Muirfield [in the 2013 British Open]. I hit a few, told him what was going on; he asked my caddie, Joe [Skovron], where the misses were. Butch said I was getting in the proper positions, but it felt forced to me. I knew it was going to be a process. We made it official at the end of the year.

"We now have a routine. I typically fly into Las Vegas in the morning, stop and get a burrito for us on the way to his school at Rio Secco, and we work until midafternoon. I hit balls outside, then we go inside and video my swing, then back outside—lots of rituals. When another tour pro is there, like Jimmy Walker, we make it a competition and hit to yardages. We work hard, but it's fun. Butch tells his random stories to keep us loose, make his points. Usually I stay on the Strip, so I go back to my hotel and get cleaned up for dinner with Butch, then sometimes we play blackjack. And get after it again the next morning."

It seems like a combination of hanging with Butch and playing the money games with Phil began to transform Rickie into a different player. He finished in the top five in all four majors in 2014, then won the 2015 Players Championship in heroic fashion (making three 2s on the 17th hole on Sunday), the Scottish Open and the Deutsche Bank in the season-ending playoffs. His driving distance and putting in the clutch have been prodigious.



**Straight talk**
Rickie Fowler, with Butch Harmon at the 2014 Ryder Cup, says Butch will "tell you how it is."

"I'm feeling more comfortable taking it to the next level, knowing I can handle it when I need to," Fowler says. "I can look back and remember the moments to draw upon."

What is it that makes Butch such a successful coach? "For one thing," Fowler says, "he's not going to suck up to anyone. He'll tell you how it is. He'll say to me, 'That's terrible! You need to work on this.' He's great around people, but he's the kind of guy who tells you the truth all the time. He's not a faker. He says he's not politically correct, but he's politically consistent. Hang out with us on the range a couple of days and you'll see why Butch deserves to be in the Hall of Fame."

Which brings us to the point that's so blatantly obvious. In the World Golf Hall of Fame, there are some acclaimed golf teachers like Paul Runyan and Tommy Armour, but they were inducted on their playing merits. Only Harvey Penick got in on his credentials as a teacher—a deserved honor, but he shouldn't be the only one.

In a poll of his peers by Golf Digest, Butch Harmon was first ranked America's No. 1 teaching pro in 2001 and has repeated as No. 1 in the biennial survey every time since—extending his lead to its largest this year at age 72 (*see page 78*). He has taught at least eight Hall of Famers (Norman, Mickelson, Seve Ballesteros, Tom Watson, Nick Faldo, Ernie Els, Jose Maria Olazabal and Fred Couples) and one inevitable (Woods). Butch's success with Rickie is just the latest exhibit.

I think it's fair to say Butch is not only today's greatest teacher, but there's growing evidence he's the greatest of all time. His induction into the Hall of Fame seems inevitable.

Why not now?

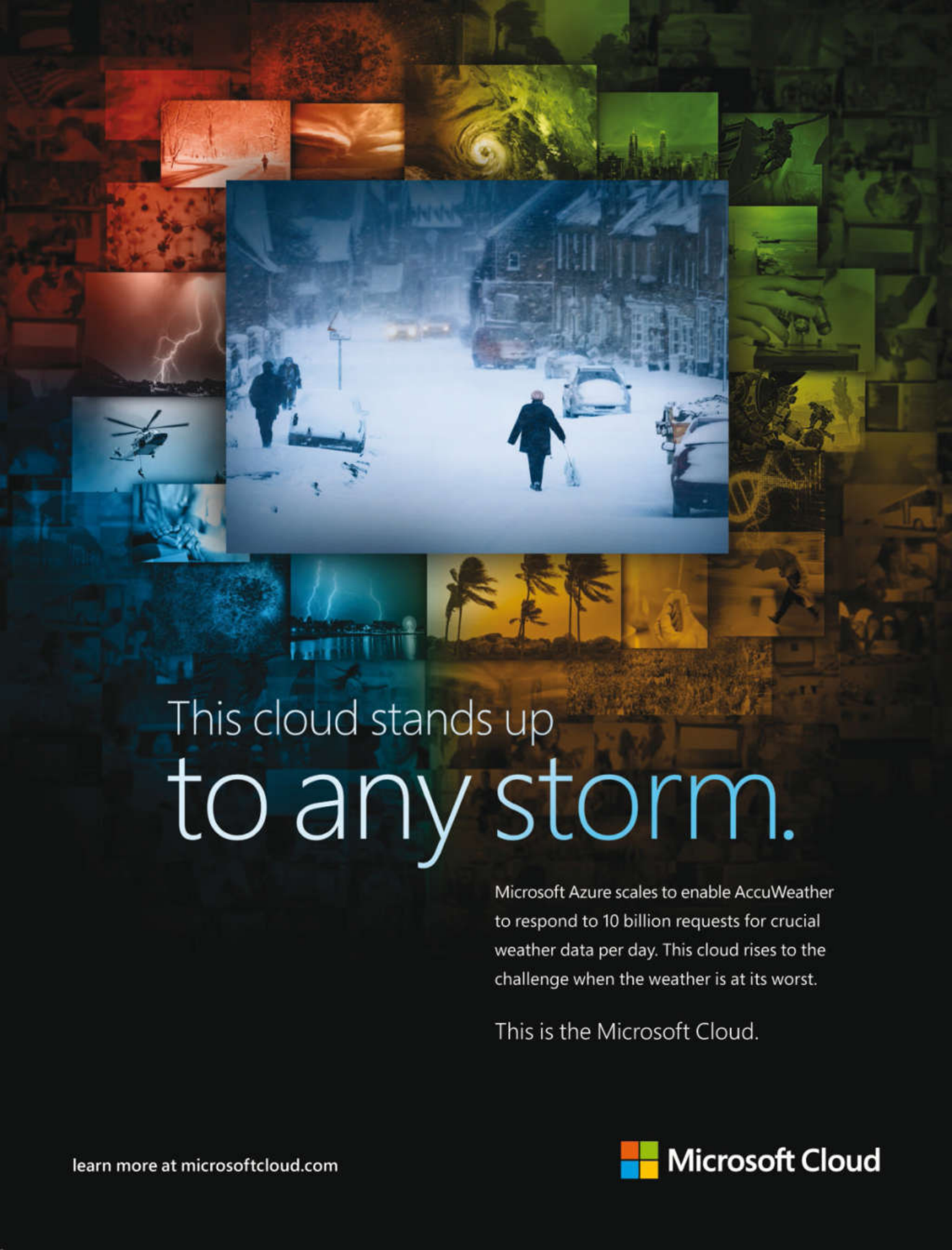
**TOP-10 TEACHERS BY TOUR-PRO VOTE**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Butch Harmon |
| 2 | Scott Hamilton |
| 3 | Sean Foley |
| 4 | David Leadbetter |
| 5 | Todd Anderson |
| T-6 | Chuck Cook |
| T-6 | Jim McLean |
| 8 | Joe Hallett |
| T-9 | Matt Killen |
| T-9 | Jorge Parada |

**TOP 10 BY OUR READERS**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Butch Harmon |
| 2 | Dave Stockton |
| 3 | Michael Breed |
| T-4 | Hank Haney |
| T-4 | David Leadbetter |
| 6 | Jim McLean |
| 7 | Dave Pelz |
| 8 | Sean Foley |
| 9 | Martin Hall |
| 10 | Claude Harmon III |

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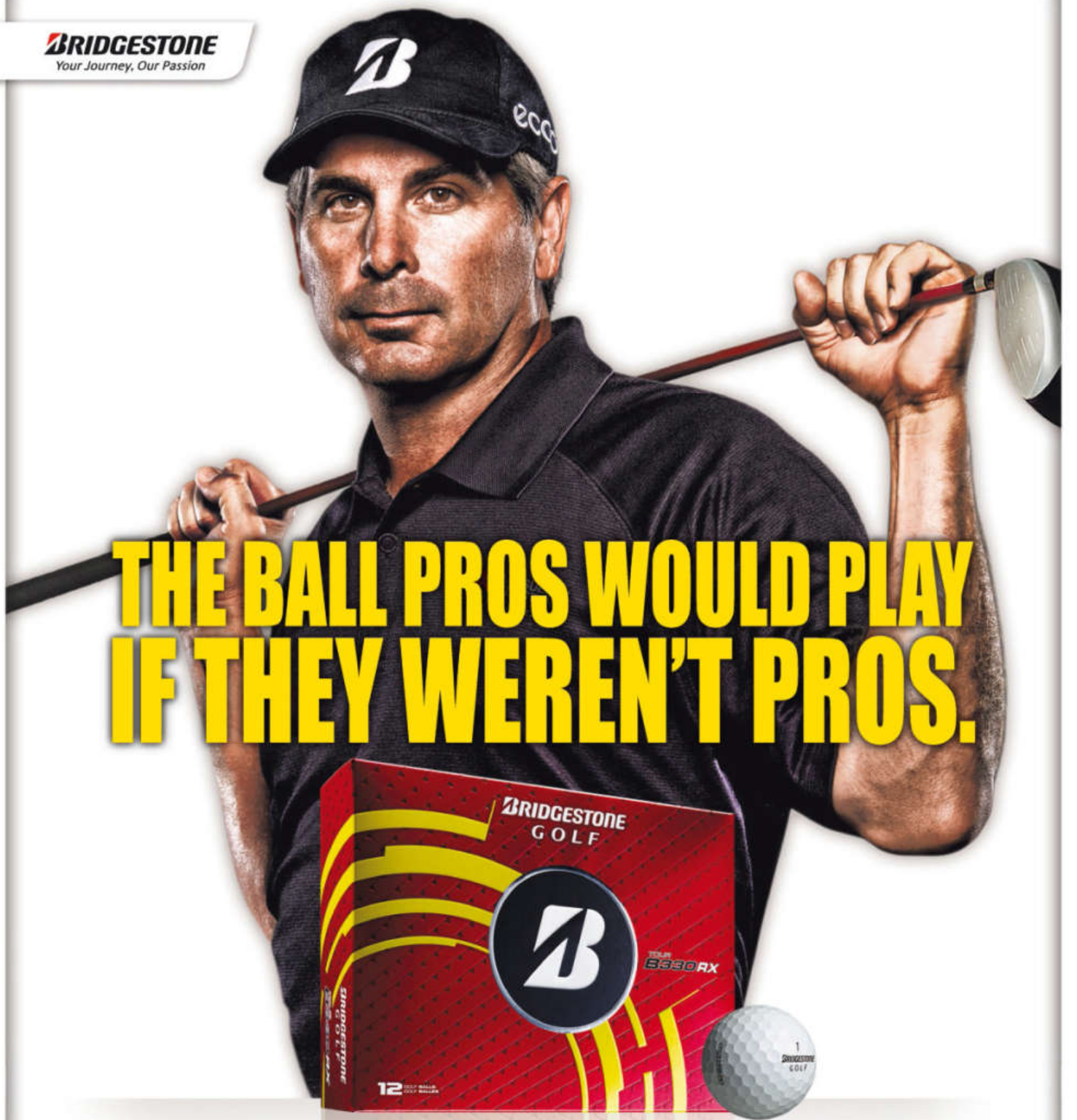
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# Play

## Long-distance Relationship

### Are you getting along with your fairway woods? Try my keys

BY J.B. HOLMES




I know a lot of amateurs lower their expectations on approach shots from 200-plus yards. Granted, your odds of hitting a green from out there are never great, but my advice on fairway woods will help. Start with this drill: Practice making controlled swings that allow you to finish in balance like I am here. That's the tempo you want. Treat it like you were swinging an iron to a specific distance. If a shot is too long for a 7-iron, you hit a 6. Same thinking here: Every fairway wood has a distance limit. Don't try to stretch it. —WITH RON KASPRISKE

Photographs by J.D. Cuban

# "To hit a cut, set up with your feet and shoulders open."



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## GO LEFT TO RIGHT FOR CONSISTENCY

I like to fade or cut the ball, which I recommend for you because making a swing that curves a shot left to right seems easier to repeat for most golfers. It also will help you hit the ball higher, which comes in handy on long shots over obstacles like bunkers or water.

To hit a cut, set up with your feet and shoulders open, or aligned left of your target. Then make a swing where your body rotates significantly toward the target before the club reaches the ball. I can't emphasize this enough: Keep turning all the way to the finish. If your body stops and your arms and club keep swinging, you'll hit it dead left.

**J.B. Holmes** has four wins on the PGA Tour, including the 2015 Shell Houston Open.



**SETUP**

Ball position is important for solid contact. It should be forward of center in your stance—but not quite up to where you play a driver.



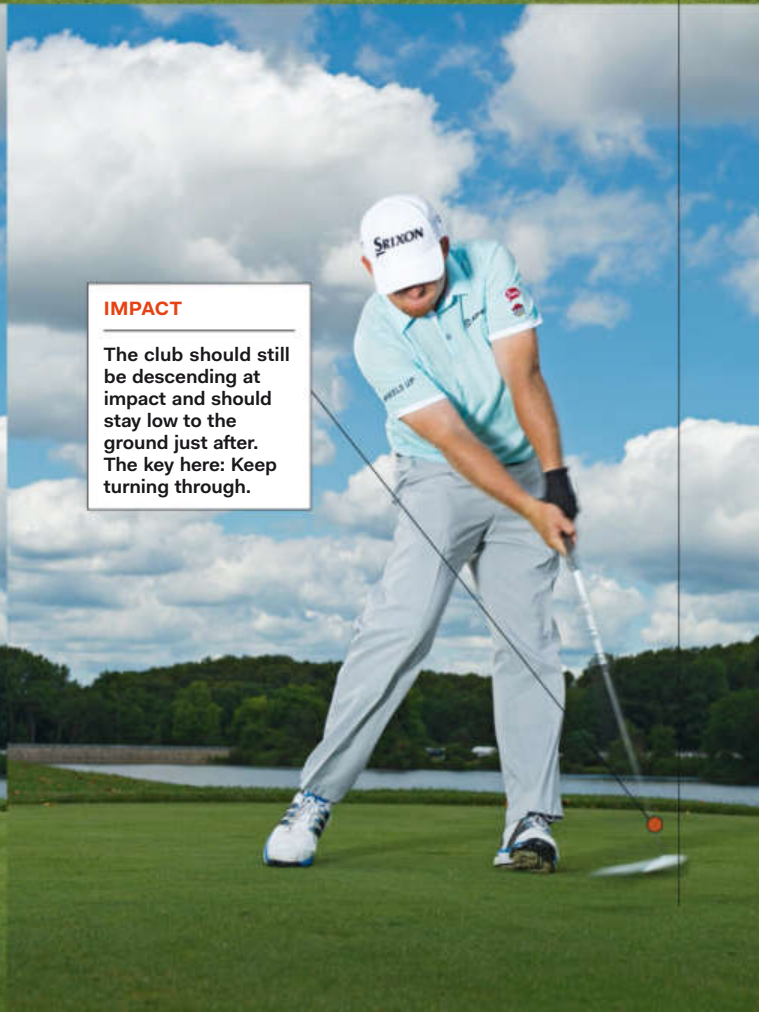
**BACKSWING**

Swing back until you feel the muscles around your left shoulder stretched. Wherever that is, that's your top of the backswing.



**DOWNSWING**

Bump your left hip toward the target as you start down. This shallows the club's path and keeps it to the inside. It'll help get the ball up.



**IMPACT**

The club should still be descending at impact and should stay low to the ground just after. The key here: Keep turning through.



## PATRICK KOENIG

GOLFER, PHOTOGRAPHER

Seattle's Patrick Koenig is a tech-sales executive by day who has earned a following in social media for his skillful golf photography. A scratch player whose love for the game is only matched by his business acumen, Koenig takes his Casio G-Steel watch from the seaside fairways of the Northwest Pacific to Wall Street with confidence, knowing its sleek style and absolute toughness will serve him everywhere.

Follow Patrick on Instagram at @pjkoenig.

**G-SHOCK**

WALL STREET, NEW YORK CITY

PHOTO: CARTER BERG, @carterlberg






The **G-Steel GSTS110D-1A** features a stainless-steel bezel and band. The whole G-Steel family comes with G-Shock's world-renowned shock-resistant structure.



# STEEL THE SHOW

## G-SHOCK IS ABSOLUTE TOUGHNESS

A 10-year battery life, 10-bar water resistance and 10-meter dropping shock resistance—these were the original requirements of the "Triple 10" concept that led to the development of G-SHOCKS's shock-resistant structure. The timepiece's rugged shape and robust styling originated with an engineer's brief calling for an "unbreakable watch."

Since its birth in 1983, G-SHOCK has continued to evolve while retaining its unique basic structure. G-SHOCK has continuously pursued new possibilities for every aspect of toughness, from structure and materials to the watch's functions. It has introduced one new watch after another that takes toughness to new dimensions.

G-STEEL is a refined range of timepieces for the active gentlemen seeking G-SHOCK's legendary performance and technology standards who also enjoys the look and feel of a metal timepiece. Focusing on the origins of toughness, G-STEEL is equipped with a tough layered bezel structure. The dual layer makeup of the bezel fuses materials such as resin and stainless steel, or resin and fine resin. Built on a solid foundation of stainless steel and harnessing the energy of tough solar power, G-SHOCK G-STEEL is both practical and tough.

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**G-SHOCK**



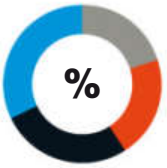

If hints of red are more your speed, check out the **G-Steel GSTS100D-1A4**, which fuses a resin bezel and stainless-steel band.






Every G-Steel model is solar powered and water resistant to 200 meters, and the **G-Steel GSTS100G-1A** comes with a black resin bezel and band with gold accents.






What shot would you want to hit with your golf hero watching?

- Chip: 20%
- Putt: 21%
- Drive: 27%
- Approach: 32%

SOURCE: GOLF DIGEST READERS



# How to Play Tougher

## Block out bad stuff with the power of intention

There are a lot of bullies on the golf course. Bunkers, water hazards, tall trees, high grass—you name it. The more you focus on those bullies, the more they mess with your head, and the worse you play. So how do you ignore them? I have a method that has helped everyone from tour players to 25-handicappers. I want you to use the power of intention.

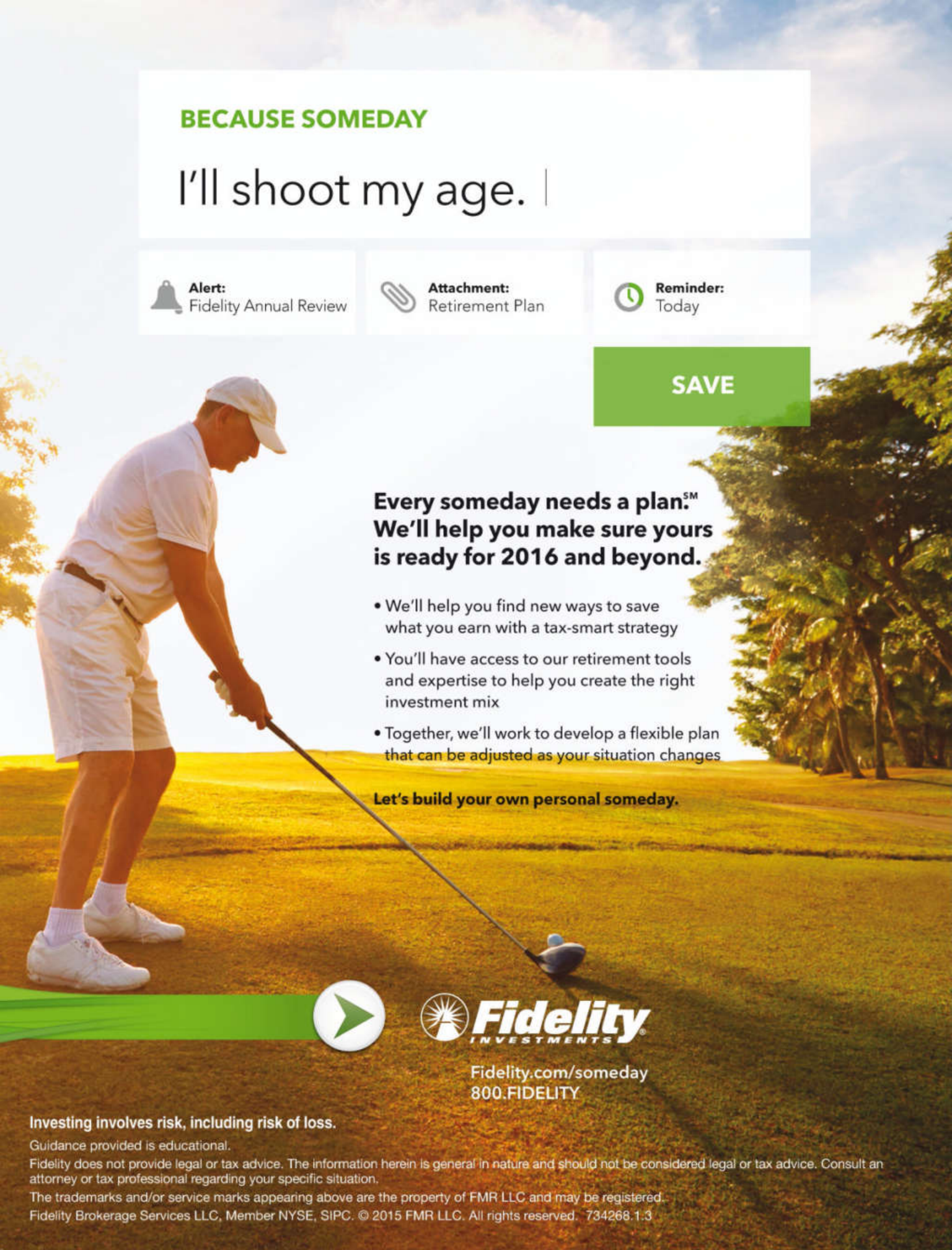
What I mean by that is, before each shot go through your normal checklist, determining distance, wind direction, elevation change—all the usual variables. Then focus on what you want the ball to do and where you want it to end up. But here's the most important part: Once you've done that, try to hit the shot with as much bravery as you can muster. If you do that, your intention will divert from all the bad stuff out there and be channeled toward the execution.

In short, make a plan for the shot, stick to it, and accept the consequences. Don't let yourself be a slave to the result. Whatever happens, just start the process over again with the next shot.

**Sean Foley** is based at Orange County National near Orlando.

NIKE: SHIRT, $50, GLOVE, $19 • BREITLING: WATCH • SEE: SUNGLASSES

Photograph by Dom Furore


BECAUSE SOMEDAY
I'll shoot my age.
Alert:
Fidelity Annual Review
Attachment:
Retirement Plan
Reminder:
Today
SAVE
Every someday needs a plan.SM
We'll help you make sure yours is ready for 2016 and beyond.
• We'll help you find new ways to save what you earn with a tax-smart strategy
• You'll have access to our retirement tools and expertise to help you create the right investment mix
• Together, we'll work to develop a flexible plan that can be adjusted as your situation changes
Let's build your own personal someday.
Fidelity
INVESTMENTS
Fidelity.com/someday
800.FIDELITY
Investing involves risk, including risk of loss.
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"Make a fairway wider by using the slope to your advantage."

## Get in the Zone

# Shape your drive to fit the landing area

One tee shot that really unsettles golfers is a dogleg that bends in the opposite direction of their natural shot shape. For example, No. 18 at Muirfield Village (*shown*) poses a dilemma to the right-handed golfer whose stock shot is a draw.

If you're a draw player on this hole, you could go with your usual ball flight, using the rationale you're most likely to produce a solid strike with the swing you know. Or you might try the shot you don't play as much, a fade, because it allows a larger margin of error in finding the fairway.

Rather than going on gut instinct, learn to look at landing areas critically. Then you can apply the best strategy for you.

—WITH MAX ADLER



### LONGEST: TURN IT OFF THE RIGHT

With the fairway tilted left, any tee shot with a right-to-left flight must be more accurate. A ball with draw spin that lands too far to the left can kick hard and end up wet. The safer landing area is the right half of the fairway. It's risky, but a draw poses a distance reward: A ball hooking in from the right uses the fairway's slope to get more rollout. But this can get you in more trouble than the reward is worth.

### IDEAL: HIT A FADE FOR CONTROL

On this hole, the fairway slopes to the left, toward the creek, so left-to-right shots that land in the short grass will settle quickly and stay there. Because the water is the worst miss, it's nice to watch a drive bend away from it. The most intelligent golf is played into a slope. By this I mean, the golfer looking for control tries to pitch the ball into slopes that kill rollout, limiting bad bounces.

### SAFEST: LAY UP WITH A 3-WOOD

The most prudent play is to select the club that shifts your landing zone short of where the fairway turns. Then you can forget about trajectory and just focus on hitting it solid. You'll have a longer approach and your view of the green could be obscured by something on the corner (a black walnut tree here), but playing short gives you the widest berth.

### RESTORING THE CHALLENGE

Modern drivers are engineered to be anti-slice, so they're hard to fade. Some of today's golfers can't really work the ball left to right. I recently added 40 yards to this back tee because players at the Memorial were bombing drives directly over the bunkers. Now the hole tips out at 484 yards, so no one can dodge the question this tee shot asks.



Illustration by Chris O'Riley

*445 horsepower based on the 750i xDrive Sedan.
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**LESS EMISSIONS. MORE DRIVING PLEASURE.**

The all-new
BMW 7 Series

The Ultimate
Driving Machine®

# DRIVING LUXURY.

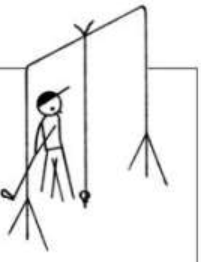
## THE ALL-NEW BMW 7 SERIES.
## THE MOST INNOVATIVE VEHICLE IN ITS CLASS.

Experience uncompromised luxury and cutting-edge technology, with 13 innovations found in no other luxury vehicle. And with its lighter Carbon Core frame and 445-horsepower* engine, this BMW delivers exactly the kind of performance you'd expect from the Ultimate Driving Machine®.







# My 60-yard Solution

## Swing shorter and hit it with authority

Most golfers hate partial wedge shots because they don't have a good plan for playing them. They tend to make too big a backswing and then have to decel at impact to avoid smashing the ball over the green. When you slow down like that, everything gets out of sync, which makes it tough to catch the ball solid.

The secret to these shots is making a shorter, wider backswing (*below, left*), so you can accelerate through the ball. You want to be able to rotate your torso and swing your arms faster on the downswing—that's an athletic move that produces more consistent results. When everything moves through the shot together, you can make a firm strike and not worry about putting too much on it.

I tell my students who struggle with these shots to commit to this phrase: "Wide back, accelerate through." Get your body facing the target at the finish and your arms farther through than they went back (*below, right*). To do that with confidence, the key is a shorter backswing.

**Butch Harmon** is a Golf Digest Teaching Professional.

### BUTCH'S BASICS

When you have to hit a wedge shot high, I bet you hang on your back foot and try to help the ball up—catching it fat or thin. You need to get your weight forward as you swing through. Start with more weight on your front foot. Then swing back, and shift to the target coming down. At the finish, check that you're using your back foot only as a balance point.



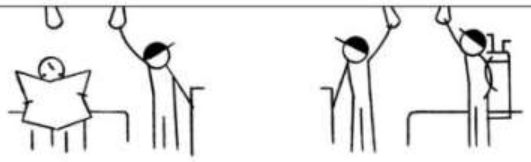

LAURENT CILLUFFO • FOOTJOY: SHIRT, $65, PANTS, $85, SHOES, $190 • TITLEIST: HAT, $27, GLOVE $24 • HOUSE OF FLEMING: BELT • ROLEX: WATCH



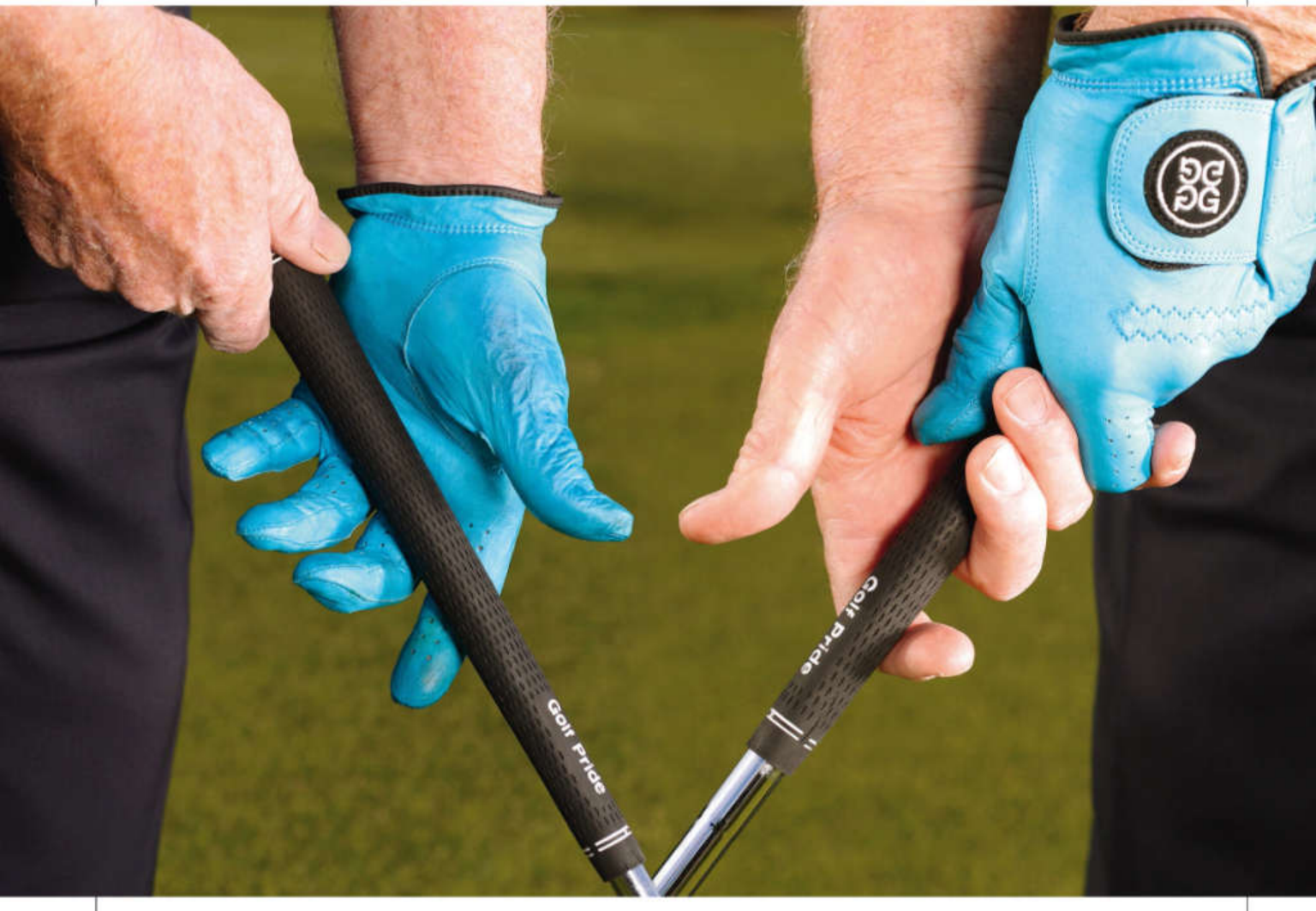
Photographs by J.D. Cuban


He connects with the ball.
We connect him to the world.
Proud to keep Jordan Spieth connected on and off the course.
MOBILIZING
YOUR
WORLD™
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Big splashes are an essential ingredient
in a happy childhood.
the Fresh Air fund
serving children since 1877
Give one of New York City's neediest kids what the city can't: a taste of a safe, fun summer. Your $20 or more gives a kid a break.
Please contribute at www.freshair.org or 1-800-367-0003
A copy of our annual financial report may be obtained from The Fresh Air Fund, 633 Third Avenue, 14th floor, New York, NY 10017 (212) 897-8900 or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. ©2013 The Fresh Air Fund.








# Come to Grips

## Simple steps for getting your hands on right

I see a lot of amateurs holding the club too tightly. I notice it most when they try to waggle. The movement looks stiff and short. To swing correctly, the right amount of grip pressure—and where you apply it—is important.

You should feel the club being supported by the last three fingers of your left hand (*above, left*). Those fingers should grip the firmest. My longtime teacher, the late Stan Thirsk, used to remind me to keep the club in the fingers of my left hand and never let it slip into the palm.

In the right hand, the middle two fingers do most of the work. The forefinger and thumb of the right hand should feel relaxed. In fact, I've seen many great players, including Ben Hogan and Fred Couples, practice with those two fingers clear off the club (*above, right*).

Back to waggling. With softer grip pressure, your waggle will be looser and will help relax your hands and arms. During the swing, the right hand should be free enough to fire the clubhead through the hitting area.

—WITH NICK SEITZ

**ELEMENTARY WATSON**

**When it comes to gripping the club, how tight is too tight? Here's an exercise: Next time you practice, try backing off with your grip pressure until the club is almost falling out of your hands. Then firm it up just enough so you can control the club. That likely is your ideal grip pressure. Will it feel lighter? I'm guessing it will.**

**Tom Watson** is a Golf Digest Teaching Professional.

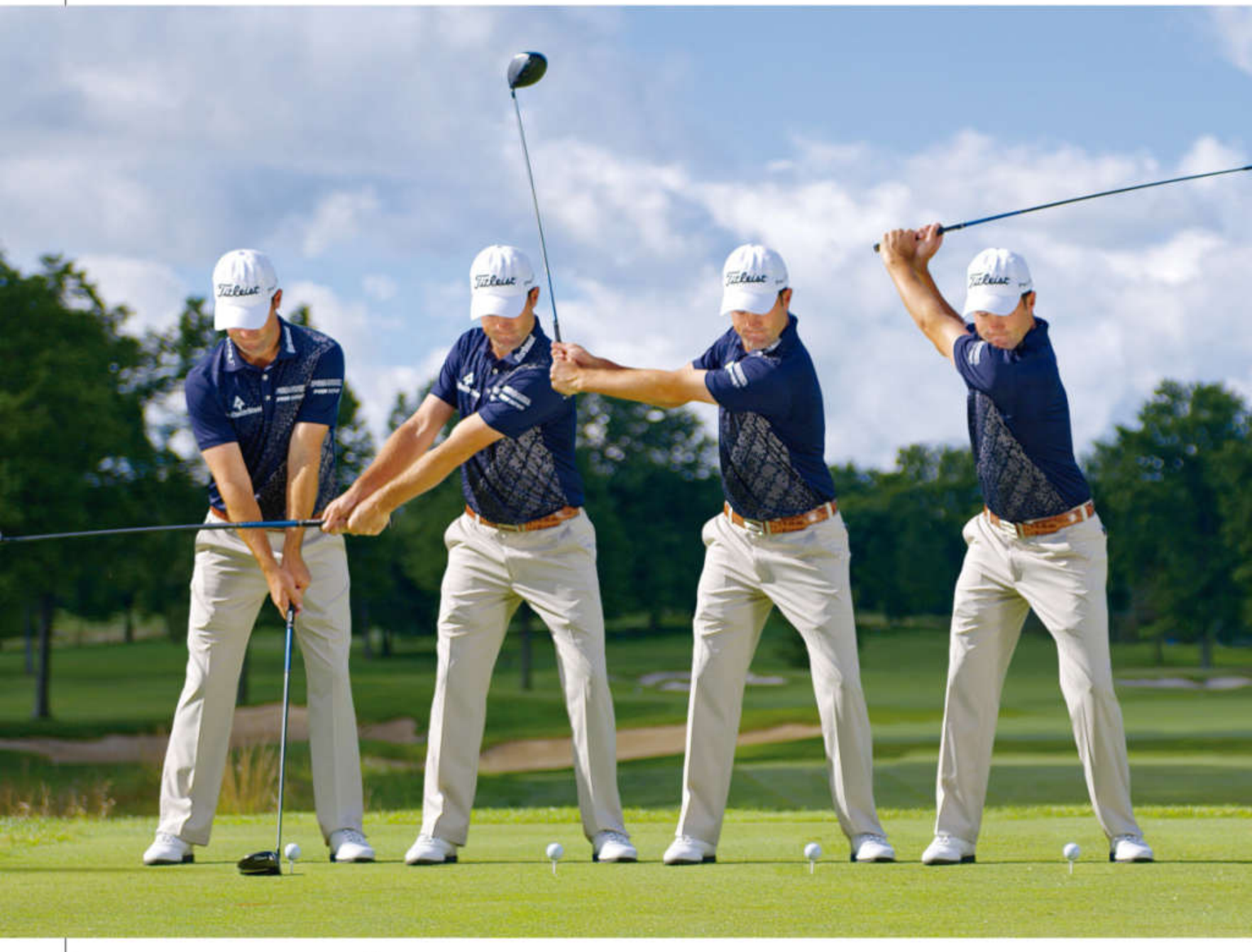
ILLUSTRATION BY LAURENT CILLUFFO • G/FORE: GLOVE, $35

Photographs by J.D. Cuban at The Grand Golf Club, San Diego

Robert Streb might be best known for his prowess with a sand wedge—not from the bunkers but on the green. During the final round of The Greenbrier Classic in July, he tossed his putter back to his bag, and the shaft snapped. Because the rules didn't allow him to replace the club, he putted with his 56-degree, making five birdie putts—including a 25-footer—to get into a sudden-death playoff, which Danny Lee won.

But Streb, a Kansas State grad who just finished his third year on the PGA Tour, should be known for his smooth swing and exceptional ball-striking. A look at these sequence photos reveals solid technique that should keep him around while he refines it with teacher Tosh Hays, director of instruction at Coffee Creek Golf Club in Edmond, Okla.

Better yet, Streb's demeanor rarely changes. Not only was he unfazed by the putter incident, he kept his cool in August when he learned that, because of a mathematical error, he went from 12th to 16th in Presidents Cup points. The PGA had miscalculated his McGladrey Cup win. "Hey, it's human error," he said. "These things happen." Good swing, even better attitude. —ROGER SCHIFFMAN



## Robert Streb

### A throwback swing with some modern touches

#### LOOK MA, NO GLOVE

His instructor, Tosh Hays, wants Streb to have sound fundamentals and the ability to work the ball. It starts with a grip that promotes good feel. Not only does Streb skip wearing a glove, he puts all 10 fingers on the club. "He was a hockey player when he came to me at age 16," Hays says. "I saw no reason to change it."

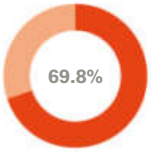
#### GREAT EXTENSION

Streb takes pride when others say his swing is a throwback to an earlier era. "The high-hands finish influences other positions in his swing," Hays says. "Going back, Robert has only a small hip turn, and I love the tremendous arm extension. He takes the club back much straighter than when he was in college."

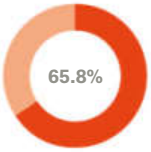
#### IDEAL AT THE TOP

Streb's swing used to be flatter at the top. "A few years ago his hands would be level with his head here," Hays says. "Now he's more upright, and his hands are not behind him." Note the clubface is slightly closed, perfect for hitting a controlled draw. "This position holds up well under pressure," Hays says.

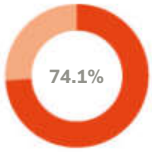
### GREENS IN REGULATION




Robert Streb (16th)




Tour average




Henrik Stenson (1st)

### TOTAL BIRDIES




Robert Streb (4th)

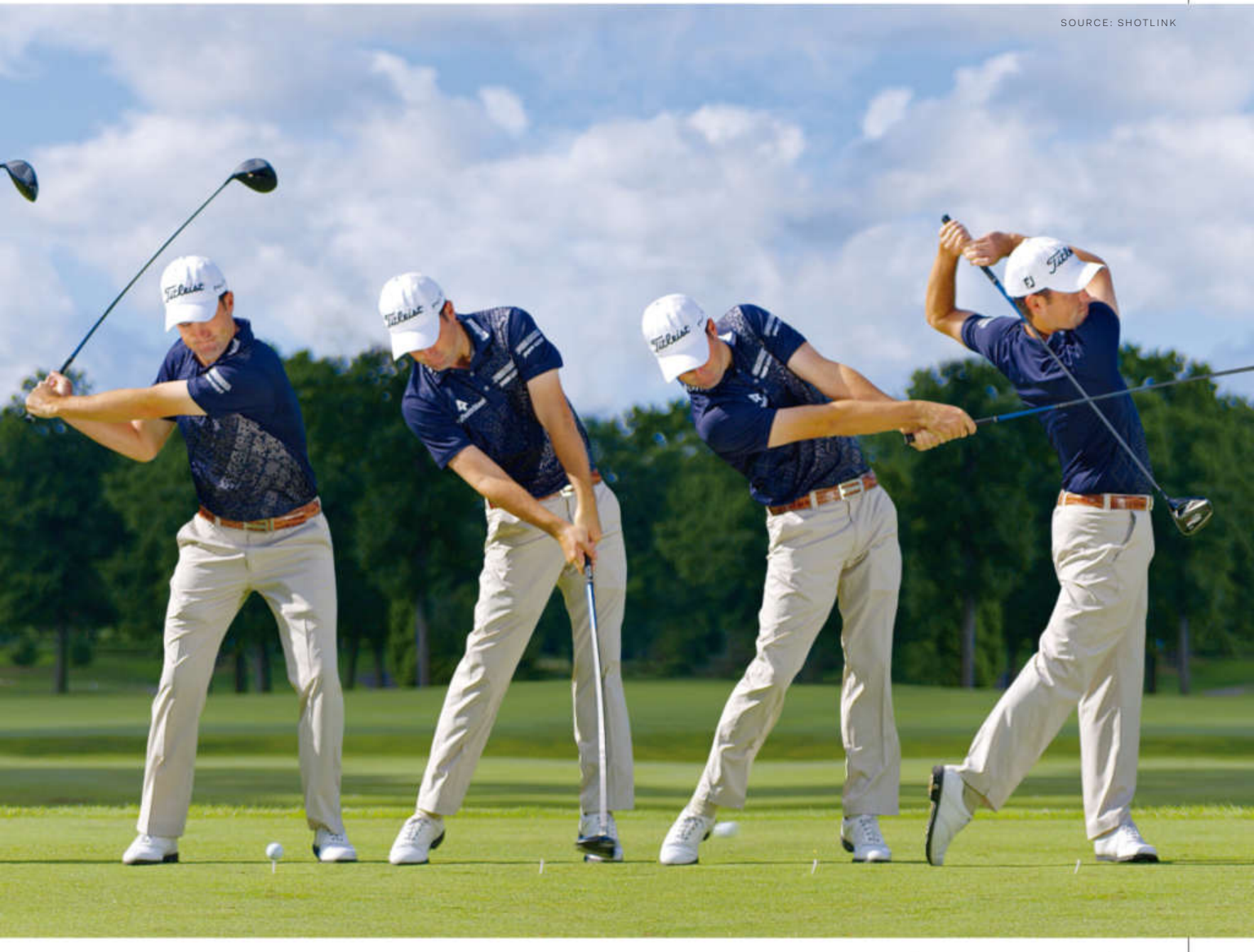



Tour average




Danny Lee (1st)

SOURCE: SHOTLINK



### HIDDEN POWER

"I always say you don't need to know a lot about the golf swing, but you do need to know a little about yours," Hays says. "Starting down, Robert knows his power comes from hitting it solid, not swinging hard. One key is leading with his lower body and transferring weight to his left foot." That starts the chain reaction into the ball.

### LAUNCHING IT

At impact, Streb looks like the best player from another era: Jack Nicklaus. Streb's head is well back, but his weight and hands are forward. "He's feeling the release of the clubhead with his forearms, which creates speed," Hays says. "I love the bowed left wrist and the angled stripes on his shirt, showing he's swinging up on it."

### OLD-SCHOOL FINISH

"Robert has awesome arm extension in the through-swing," Hays says. "One thing he's working on is keeping his left foot planted as he swings through the ball, which would give him a more stable base." Those high hands in the finish position, Hays says, promote a draw—and who doesn't like that?

### PRO-FILE

**ROBERT STREB**
**28 / 5-10 / 165 pounds**
**Shawnee, Kan.**

**DRIVER**
**Titleist 913D3**
**9.5 degrees**

**BALL**
**Titleist Pro V1x**

+
**PGA TOUR APPAREL** shirt, $60
**DRUH** belt, $124
**TITLEIST** hat, $27

Photographs by Dom Furore



# Don't get 'line crazy.' You'll forget to hit the putt.



## Why'd I Do That?

### Your must-make putt is tracking to the hole—but never gets there

You study the break from every angle. You set up meticulously, make a nice, smooth stroke and start the ball right on line. It's looking good, looking *real* good, but comes up one revolution short.

Of course, this happens all the time, but that doesn't make it any easier to swallow—probably tougher. What can you learn? Well, you either tried to wish it in and made a wimpy stroke, or you got "line crazy" and forgot about speed. Maybe you were afraid of leaving a comebacker. Whatever the case, you feel like snapping your putter in half. (Don't.)

Next time, try to manage your nervous energy. After you've picked the line and set the putter behind the ball, focus on hitting a solid putt. Think of striking an imaginary tack stuck in the back of the ball. And don't exaggerate the follow-through—that can actually cause deceleration. Instead, make a positive strike with a short finish and hold it for a second. The ball will roll truer, and you'll have a better chance of knocking it in.



**THE MENTAL SIDE: SEE THE HOLE**

Some golfers leave important putts short because they have a flaw in their visual routine. They get so focused on an aiming spot they want to roll the ball over that they forget the hole. As a result, they lose their feel for distance. Picking an intermediate target isn't wrong, but that's not where you want the ball to end up. It shouldn't be your last point of focus before making a stroke.
—MORRIS PICKENS, PH.D.



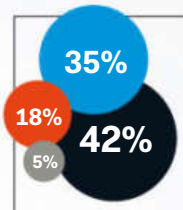
**JASON DAY HAD IT MADE**

In July at the British Open, Jason Day let a chance to win his first major slip away on the last green. Day faced a mid-range putt for birdie to join a playoff with Zach Johnson, Marc Leishman and Louis Oosthuizen. Day rolled the putt on line but left it short. He was crushed, but a month later he won the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits, holing putts to beat Jordan Spieth.

**Jim McLean** is a Golf Digest Teaching Professional.

DAY: JAN KRUGER/GETTY IMAGES • BRAIN: JIM LUFT

Illustration by Chris Gash




**What shot is the hardest to get out of your head?**

- The shank
- Missed two-footer
- Topped drive
- Bunker chunk

SOURCE: GOLF DIGEST READERS

# Shank-proof Your Swing

## Learn to return the club to its setup position

When somebody sends me a tweet during a round looking for help, I know it's pretty serious. And a lot of times the subject is a shank.

The classic shank comes when the clubhead gets farther away from you at impact than it was at address, or you move closer to the ball during the swing. As a result, the ball hits off the hosel and darts sideways.

Start by getting the right distance from the ball. Your arms should hang from your shoulders—not reach—and you should keep the body posture that creates throughout the swing. To avoid moving toward the ball or swinging your arms out, use my obstacle drill (*left, inset*).

**Hank Haney** is based at the Hank Haney Golf Ranch, Lewisville, Texas. To get fixed in Golf Digest, send Hank your swing on Twitter: @HankDHaney.

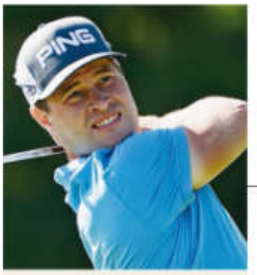


### DON'T BUMP THE HEADCOVER

**Hit some iron shots, or make practice swings, with a headcover just outside the toe of your club. Miss the cover, and you'll miss the hosel on the other side. Your contact will move back toward the center.**

ASHWORTH: SHIRT, $70, PANTS, $95, BELT, $80 • ADIDAS: SHOES, $190 • TAYLORMADE: HAT, $26, GLOVE, $22

Photograph by Dom Furore



## DAVID LINGMERTH

**AGE** 28

**LIVES** Jacksonville

**STORY** Won the 2015 Memorial Tournament in a playoff against Justin Rose.

**RYDER CUP AMBITIONS**
I've met with Darren Clarke and other European Ryder Cup players this summer. It's cool that they think I could contribute to their team. I'm going to do my best to qualify, which entails joining the European Tour next season. You know, just having my name mentioned in Ryder Cup talks is a pretty big thrill for me.

**KEEPING MY COOL**
Leading the PGA and British Open this year was a thrill, and a learning experience on how to handle your emotions.

—WITH STEPHEN HENNESSEY

| CLUB | YDS* |
|---|---|
| DRIVER | 275 |
| 3-WOOD | 250 |
| 2-HYBRID | 230 |
| 4-IRON | 215 |
| 5-IRON | 200 |
| 6-IRON | 190 |
| 7-IRON | 180 |
| 8-IRON | 165 |
| 9-IRON | 155 |
| PW | 140 |
| GW | 123 |
| SW | 107 |
| LW | 93 |

*carry distance



**First win at Jack's? Pretty surreal**
During NCAAs in 2009, Jack came and gave a talk to the teams. I was in awe of being in the same room as him. So to win his event was something I'll always cherish.



**Hog ties**
This is my driver headcover—a nod to the University of Arkansas, where I went to school. Go, Hogs!

### DRIVER

**SPECS** Ping G30, 10.5˚, Aldila Rogue 60-X shaft (tipped half an inch), 45.25 inches, D-4 swingweight

**We added five grams to the toe to achieve the feel I want. It helps keep the clubhead from turning over on my go-to fade.**



**Swedish connection**
I played hockey growing up in Sweden. Since coming to the United States, I've become a Washington Capitals fan. This is me (*left*) with Nicklas Backstrom (*center*), a fellow Swede and center for the Capitals.

### HYBRID

**SPECS** Ping Anser, 17˚ (bent to 17.5˚), 1˚ flat, Matrix Ozik Altus Red, X-flex, D-2 swingweight

**I can step on this club and trust it anytime I need to. It's a huge club for me on the longer tour layouts.**

### 3-WOOD

**SPECS** Ping G25, 15˚ (bent to 14.5˚), Aldila Rogue 70-X shaft (tipped an inch), 0.5˚ flat, 42.5 inches. D-2 swingweight

**My misses are controlled with this. I like a flat look at setup.**




### IRONS

**SPECS** Ping i25 (4-iron through pitching wedge), ¼ degree strong, Ping ZZ65 shafts

**My natural ball flight is low compared to other pros. These cavity-back irons have a wider sole [compared to a blade] to give me a little help in launching my shots higher. That's key for my long irons.**

### WEDGES

**SPECS** Ping Glide wedges: 50˚ (bent to 50.5˚), 54˚ (bent to 55˚), 60˚, ZZ65 shafts

**By adding a third wedge this year my ranking in short approaches from the rough jumped by more than 100 spots.**

### PUTTER

**SPECS** Ping Cadence TR Ketsch (blue), 32 inches, 2.5˚ loft, 70˚ lie angle

**The weight of the mallet-style putter works for me. I used an Anser for a couple months in 2013 but realized it wasn't for me. Also, the contrasting lines help me with my aim.**

**Keeping it simple**
There's nothing crazy about the mark on my Titleist Pro V1x. Used to be blue and yellow for Sweden. Now it's just a black dot.




LINGMERTH(2): GETTY IMAGES • BACKSTROM: LINGMERTH ON TWITTER (@DLINGMERTH)

Photographs by Ben Walton


DAYS OF HARDSHIP.
DAYS OF SACRIFICE.
DAYS OF STRUGGLE.
ALL MADE THIS DAY.
20
UNDER PAR.
IT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN
PURSUIT TURNS INTO PERFECTION.
Congratulations to Jason Day for achieving the lowest score ever in a major tournament.
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# Bubba hits it on the upswing and averages 302 in the air.



## Bigger Drives

## Give the ball an uppercut to hit your best tee shots ever

To maximize driving distance, long-ball hitters like Bubba Watson (*above*) catch the ball on the upswing. Sweeping it off the tee increases the distance the ball stays in the air and reduces backspin, so it rolls more when it lands. This is the same approach to the driver I use when teaching my new A Swing. All you need to do is make some easy adjustments to hit longer drives. Follow these steps.

**David Leadbetter**, author of *The A Swing*, operates 24 golf academies worldwide.

### 1. TILT BEHIND THE BALL



▸ **Address the ball so it's in line with your left heel, and widen your stance beyond shoulder width. Your spine should be tilted away from the target, and your sternum behind the ball. Also, make sure the shaft is not leaning toward the target.**

### 2. SMOOTH TO THE TOP



▸ **Rhythm is the key to consistency, so it's important to put some flow into your backswing. Use your core muscles to start the club back, and try to keep your arms relaxed as you swing to the top. Don't let anxiety cause you to rush.**

### 3. DON'T LUNGE FORWARD



▸ **At the start of the downswing, resist the urge to shift all of your weight toward the target. You need to keep your upper body behind the ball to hit up on it. Feel as if some of your weight is still supported by your back foot during the downswing.**

### 4. THRUST UP AT IMPACT



▸ **Thrust your lower body upward as you swing into the ball. Your torso will tilt farther away from the target, and you'll be a little taller than you were at address. This thrust causes the arms to extend so you can hit up on the ball with some real power.**

ILLUSTRATIONS BY TODD DETWILER • WATSON: STAN BADZ/PGA TOUR


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# Larger than Life

## Explore the new adjustability to find the better player living in your driver

Dave Tutelman, a retired Bell Labs engineer, is a sports-technology savant. Among his many passions is figuring out how golf-club technology works, including developing a ball-flight simulation program. We asked him to estimate how many yards average golfers are missing out on with the driver. He said 30, and that's just carry. Improving the efficiency of impact (a better fitting driver is critical) might get you as many as 18 yards. The right loft could yield another six. A lower center of gravity might produce a few more, and so on. Sure, some of those improvements can be fueled by lessons, but others come from getting the driver properly fit to maximize your strengths (and mask your weaknesses). That's where adjustable clubs can make a difference. Instead of being afraid of all those settings, explore them. Here are three clubs to start your search:




**MIZUNO**
**JPX-EZ**

▸ Adjustability can be straightforward. Position the 10-gram weight in the heel to fight a slice, the toe to calm a hook or in the center to maximize forgiveness.

**PRICE** $400




**WILSON**
**FG TOUR F5**

▸ The adjustable hosel is lighter, so there's more weight to reposition in the head. That means a center of gravity that's lower and closer to the face for less spin.

**PRICE** $380

**TAYLORMADE**
**M1**

▸ The distinctive carbon-composite crown also saves weight. That saved mass is reallocated to sliders in the sole that let you tweak ball-flight height and direction.

**PRICE** $500

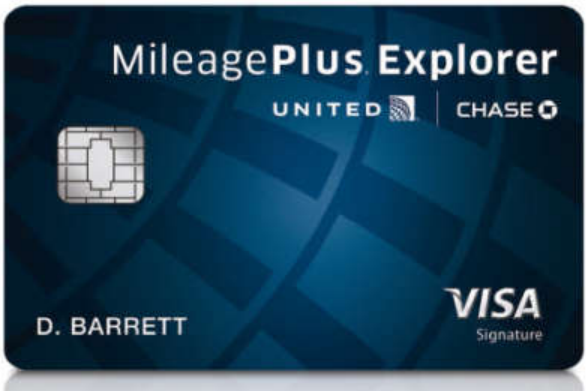



STYLIST: ANGELA CAMPOS FOR STOCKLAND MARTEL



Photograph by Hannah Whitaker






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**CALLAWAY**
**APEX**

▸ A forged frame enhances feel, and a heat-treated steel face wraps around the topline and sole to promote more distance and a higher trajectory.

**PRICE** $1,200

# Fast Thinking

## Today's irons are a club and a half longer

Sure, the newest high-tech irons are thought to be better, but we wanted to put them to the test. For example: *Could a current 6-iron beat a 5-iron from a decade ago?* Our research says yes. Although the loft of a new 6-iron is slightly weaker than the loft of yesterday's 5-iron, our player test showed that shots hit with the 6-iron flew farther *and* higher. That means those shots that hit the green will land softer. In raw numbers, the new 6-iron was seven yards longer than the old 5-iron and flew four yards higher with a steeper descent. The eight new irons shown here are more than hot faces. They provide consistent distances for your mis-hits, too. That means fewer bunkers and water hazards, and more greens, especially the kind you find in your buddy's wallet.




**PING**
**GMAX**

▸ The wide sole's thinner structure helps the thin face flex for more distance. It also keeps weight in the head low and back for a higher flight and forgiveness.

**PRICE** $900

**TITLEIST**
**AP1**

▸ The deep cavity frees up the face for more distance and higher flight. Tungsten in the toe (more than past models) makes mis-hits fly closer to on-center hits.

**PRICE** $900




**COBRA**
**KING FORGED TEC**

▸ Here's a compact players-iron shape with a bonus: A thin high-strength-steel face insert adds distance, and tungsten in the heel and toe improves off-center strikes.

**PRICE** $1,100

**WILSON**
**FG TOUR F5**

▸ Even better players want more distance in the long and middle irons. That's why the transition between face and sole is thinned to create a more flexible face.

**PRICE** $800

**TOUR EDGE**
**EXOTICS EXI**

▸ Flexible-face iron design doesn't require large, oversize heads. This traditional, less-offset look gets its horsepower from a deep cavity, a thin face and a sole slot.

**PRICE** $600

**MIZUNO**
**JPX-EZ FORGED**

▸ To get more distance from a forged iron, Mizuno infuses boron into the steel to make the face thinner and stronger and the cavity deeper for more forgiveness.

**PRICE** $1,000

**TAYLORMADE**
**PSI**

▸ Distance comes from two slots in front and one in the sole, plus a face thinner than a nickel. A special compound in the cavity helps dampen unwanted vibration.

**PRICE** $1,100

STYLIST: ANGELA CAMPOS FOR STOCKLAND MARTEL

Photographs by Hannah Whitaker

**CHARLES KELLEY / AGE** 34 **/ RESIDES** Nashville **/ FROM** Augusta, Ga.

**NOTED** Singer/guitarist for country music's Lady Antebellum. Brother Josh also is a famous country artist. Played competitive golf as a junior, including winning the Future Masters 10-and-under age group in 1992. Older winners that year included Charles Howell III and Lucas Glover. Graduated from the University of Georgia in 2004 (finance). He and his wife, Cassie, are expecting their first child in February.




THINK YOUNG, PLAY HARD

# Touring Pro

## When Lady Antebellum is on the road, singer Charles Kelley knows to bring his sticks

# Life



**MY PASSION FOR GOLF** came before music. I grew up in Augusta. My oldest brother, John, is 10 years older than me and played golf at Wake Forest. He was an amazing junior golfer, so my brother Josh and I idolized him. We got into golf really early.

**I WAS A PRETTY GOOD** golfer. At 10 I won the Future Masters. At 11 I won the North & South championship at Pinehurst. And then when I was 12, I got my first set of drums, and music became the focus. I use that as an excuse. My golf game just got crappy.

**I'VE BEEN LUCKY** enough to have played Augusta National four times. I never got invited growing up. We played the course next to it, Augusta Country Club. No. 12's green at Augusta National abuts No. 9's fairway at the country club, so we used to hit golf balls over there as kids. It was really horrible to do and rude. I also worked the range two years during the Masters.

**THIS IS MY** "I'm done with the game story." I played in this Georgia State Golf Association tournament. I was 15 playing against a bunch of 18-year-olds, and I was even par going into the 17th. Then I hit four shots out-of-bounds and made a 14. Driving home, I swore I was never going to play competitive golf again.

**TEEING OFF** in a tournament is tougher than doing a concert in an arena. First off, you're shaking. You don't want to hit anybody. When I played the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, there are people on each side of No. 1 watching you tee off. It's just nerve-racking. You don't want to embarrass yourself. But when I get on stage, I've done it a million times. I'm so comfortable and confident.

**I PLAY A LOT WITH** [singers] Darius Rucker and Jake Owen. I played Augusta with Jake and saw him shoot 72.

**MUSIC ON THE COURSE** is a little distracting to me. Nathan Followill [Kings of Leon drummer] plays it, but I never have the heart to tell him to turn it off. You know, maybe coming from Augusta, I'm a little more traditional. I like some of the courses that let you wear T-shirts, but I'm big on a golf shirt, tucked in, belt, the full works. We still have some traditions, and I think it's a good thing to teach a kid to come out, dress the part, feel sharp, and go out and play well.

**A COUPLE OF DRINKS** will loosen you up, because the worst thing in golf is thinking too much. At the AT&T, I was so nervous that I had to start each morning with a bloody mary. And I'd have a drink or two at the turn.

**I'M A 5-HANDICAP.** My lowest round was 69 in college at the University of Georgia's course. It was one of those random rounds. My best round ever was a 72 at Winged Foot. I hit maybe two fairways, but I pulled off some crazy shots, like around trees to five feet.

**NO MATTER IF I HAVE** a daughter or son, I'm going to encourage them to play golf, because those are the best memories I have of hanging with my father. —INTERVIEWED BY SARA GARMEZY

Photographed in August by Aaron Richter at the Xfinity Theater, Hartford, Conn.

# Want to pull off this shot? Get in the gym.

## Awkward Lies

### Five exercises that will help you execute the tough shots

You might like to spend hours on the range grooving your swing, but from a neurological standpoint, that's probably not a good idea, says Golf Digest fitness advisor Ben Shear. If you only train on perfectly flat practice ranges, how can you expect your body to perform when you're trying to flush a shot off a downhill or sidehill lie, or standing with one foot in and one foot out of a bunker?

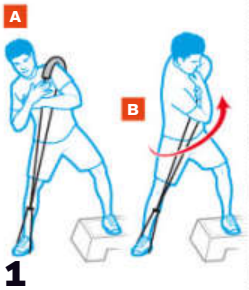
"It takes a good amount of coordination, strength and flexibility to hit shots from awkward lies," Shear says. "Even something as standard as a deep-rough lie can give you fits if your body isn't prepared."

That's why it's important to train your nervous system to be comfortable in any stance so it can coordinate muscle function to execute all types of shots. Shear offers five exercises to help when the ball isn't sitting pretty. Add these to your workout.

—RON KASPRISKE

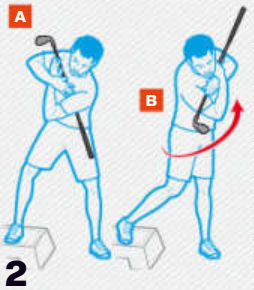


**EXERCISES ▸**



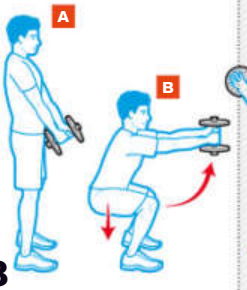

**1**

**UPHILL** Get accustomed to fighting gravity's pull away from the target. Start from your address posture, and mimic a through-swing. The lead foot should stay planted on a platform while you resist the stretch band trying to pull the left shoulder back.



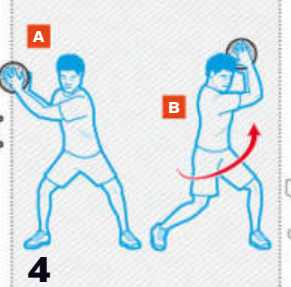

**2**

**DOWNHILL** To swing down a slope effectively, stand with your back foot elevated and your shoulders matching the incline. Mimic a swing. Your weight should remain supported by the front foot, and the club should stay on the same plane (pointing downward).



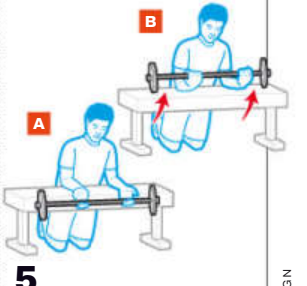

**3**

**SIDEHILL AND DOWNHILL** To keep from shifting too far toward your toes from this lie and mis-hitting the shot, hold a dumbbell in front of you with both hands, and then squat as you extend the weight away from your body. Feel pressure in your heels as you squat.




**4**

**BUNKERS** An effective swing in the sand requires good arm speed and a stable lower body. Grab a two- or four-pound medicine ball and get into a semi-squat golf posture. While maintaining balance and posture, make a golf-like swing as fast as you can.




**5**

**ROUGH** Controlling the clubface while getting it to rip through thick grass comes down to good hand and arm strength. While kneeling with your arms resting on a bench, lift a barbell up by bowing your wrists; letting your hands go from open to clenched.

EXERCISES: BROWN BIRD DESIGN



Illustration by John Ritter



# In a game of precision and intelligence, one player leads the rest.

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# Anchor's Away

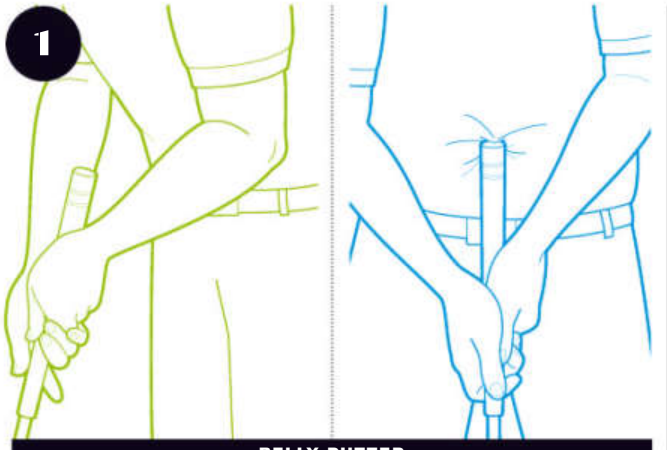
## A new rule might change the way you putt in 2016

Attention to anyone using an anchored putting stroke: Your time is almost up. When golf's governing bodies—the USGA and R&A—jointly announced the ban on anchored strokes May 21, 2013 (all anchored strokes, not just putting), the implementation date of Jan. 1, 2016 seemed far away. Now it's almost here. That means golfers who have gotten used to sticking a club against their chest, gut, chin, ear or any other body part to prevent the club from swinging unhindered are on the clock to find an alternative. This includes 2013 Masters champion Adam Scott (*right*), who was still anchoring his putter late in the 2015 season. Forget whether you agree with Rule 14-1b. You're going to have to live with it. Because if you anchor, someone in your foursome is likely to say: "Get that stuff outta here!" Not to mention you'll incur a two-shot penalty in stroke play or loss of hole in match play. ▸ Why did the USGA and R&A ban anchoring? They believed it ran counter to the spirit of what a stroke is: The club should swing freely. They also wanted to eliminate the perception that anchoring gave golfers an unfair advantage. ▸ If you want to continue to use a longer putter, that's OK. But here are some things you need to know. If you accidentally brush the grip against a loose shirt, you're fine. You're penalized only if you intended to anchor the club. Going sidesaddle is also permissible. So is putting like Matt Kuchar, who braces the club against a forearm. You can do this because the club still swings without interference. Just keep in mind that if you brace your forearm against your body while putting sidesaddle or Kooch style, it's a penalty. Still confused? Check out these examples of what you can and can't do under the new rule. —E. MICHAEL JOHNSON



"You can't anchor on **the next one**, either."

## 1

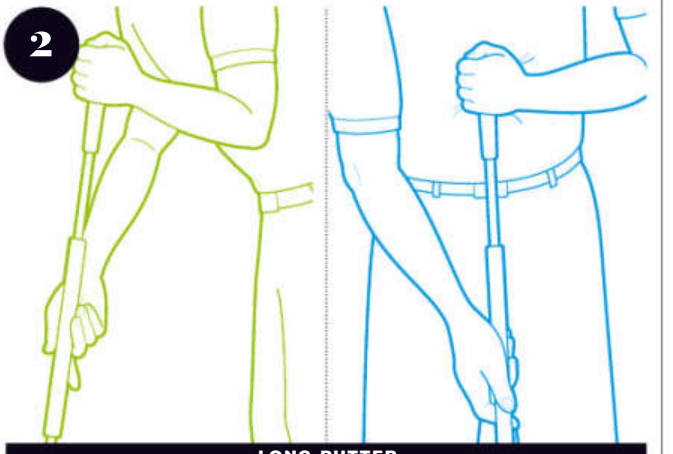


**BELLY PUTTER**

**YES** The belly putter is still permissible to use, but the shaft has to be held so the club swings freely. In this example, only the hands and wrists are touching the club.

**NO** Resting the butt end of the club against the stomach—the traditional method for using this type of longer putter—creates a direct "anchor point," which is against the rules.

## 2

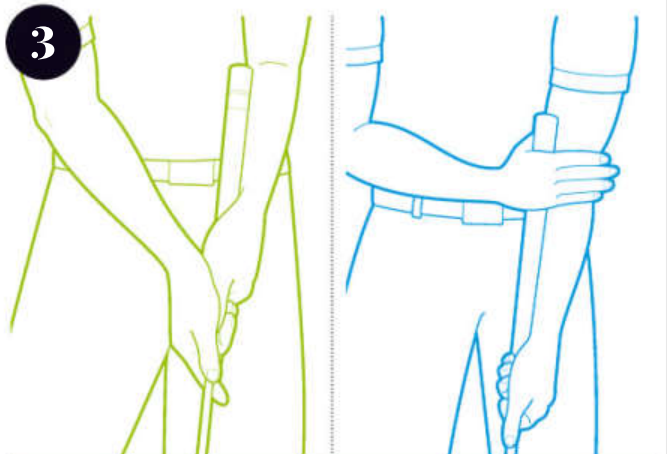


**LONG PUTTER**

**YES** Using the long putter is still legal. So is using the split-grip shown here. The key is that the shaft contacts only the hands and the lower part of the arm.

**NO** The popular method of placing a hand against the chest while holding the shaft with the same hand (a style favored by Adam Scott) is considered anchoring.

## 3

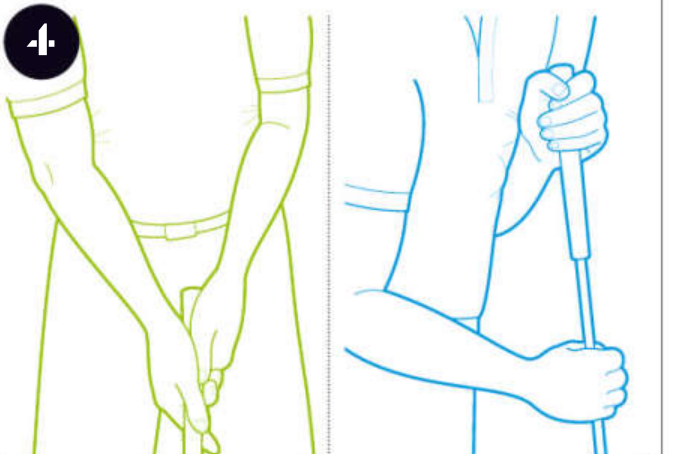


**FOREARM USE**

**YES** It's permissible to hold the club against the hand or forearm while making a stroke (like Matt Kuchar). The reason is that the hands and arms still swing without restriction.

**NO** Once the shaft is braced against an arm at or above the elbow joint, it's directly anchored, rules-makers say. So be careful how you hold it against your arm.

## 4



**BRACING ARMS**

**YES** If the forearms are resting against the body, this method is acceptable only if the hands are not separated. They can still work independently when making a stroke this way.

**NO** The forearm of the top-gripping hand is in contact with the body, creating an anchor point. The motion of the club is restricted similarly as if the handle were touching the body.

PHOTOGRAPH: STAN BADZ/GETTY IMAGES • SPOT ILLUSTRATION: PATRICK LEGER

## IT'S STILL OK TO USE YOUR LONG PUTTER

When the USGA and R&A approved the anchor ban, USGA executive director Mike Davis wanted to be clear that the proposed rule didn't restrict the use of any currently conforming equipment. "We're not trying to hurt the game, we're giving you options," Davis said in May 2013. "I say to [golfers], **'We're not going to take away your long putter. All you need to do is [hold the club away from your body], where you control the whole club with your hands.'** It's almost a light-bulb moment. They look at me and say, 'Are you serious? This would be OK?' Yes, because if you move the club away from you, you're controlling the whole stroke. The typical response is, 'Oh, wow, this isn't as bad as I thought it was going to be. I can putt this way.' "

Illustrations by Brown Bird Design

# The Best of Times

## Six watches that'll never go out of style




The collectible 1964 Rolex Daytona ($20,000, *right*) and the multifunction models on the next page remind us why chronographs are worn by astronauts, pilots and race-car drivers. From the rugged quartz-movement Casio G-Shock to the elegant, mechanical Tiffany CT60, these watches are stylish, versatile and timeless.

STYLIST: ANGELA CAMPOS FOR STOCKLAND MARTEL • 1964 ROLEX COURTESY OF CROWN & CALIBER




Clockwise from top left:
**ROLEX** Cosmograph Daytona, $37,450

**TIFFANY** CT60 Chronograph, $6,750

**OMEGA** Speedmaster Grey Side of the Moon, $12,000

**CASIO** G-Shock, $350

**MOVADO** Series 800, $1,495

Photographs by Sam Kaplan

"If I die, **give me pars** the rest of the way."



# It's a Family Affair

## How one golf-course builder thrives as others struggle

Until recently Mike Meldman was, in his words, "terrible at golf." If you counted every stroke, says one of his senior staffers, he probably couldn't break 175. Instructor Hank Haney, who has taught Meldman for the past three years, says his swing presented a bigger challenge than Charles Barkley's.

It was more than a little ironic—because even as Meldman struggled with the game, he was emerging as the undisputed leader in luxury golf. His Discovery Land Co. has developed 13 golf communities and now has five more underway: two in New York, two in Hawaii and one in Las Vegas. Empty lots at most of his clubs start at about $1 million, memberships go for $100,000 and up, and annual dues run $18,000 or more. Yet demand is strong. Business has "never, ever been better," Meldman says over lunch at his Idaho club, Gozzer Ranch. "We're doing $1 billion a year in sales."

The developer, 56, is quick to credit architect Tom Fazio, who designed most of Meldman's courses. Five of these—Gozzer Ranch, Estancia, Mountaintop, the Madison Club and CordeValle—make Golf Digest's ranking of America's 200 Greatest Golf Courses. Four more are among the best in their states.

But flashy golf is only part of what he's selling, and this seems to be why his clubs are succeeding even as many other developments suffer. Meldman has positioned his communities not so much as country clubs as super-laid-back, family-friendly destinations. "At old country clubs, guys would be there trying to get away from their families," he says. "Our idea is that you *bring* the family."

Some of the ways he appeals to families are straightforward. The food is excellent. Fitness facilities are modern and spacious. Employees trained in "outdoor pursuits" are on call to entertain members with boat trips, snorkeling, fly-fishing, hot-air ballooning and the like. But other moves are more innovative—and worthy of consideration by golfers who seek to grow the game. Emphasizing fun over formality, he has abandoned what he considers stuffy rules about country-club attire. You can wear jeans and T-shirts if you like, because that's how he dresses. At Baker's Bay, a club he opened in the Bahamas in 2006, golfers often play barefoot, and it's not unusual to find young women in bikinis at the range.

When his two grown sons were young and he was trying to get them to play golf at Estancia, his first course, Meldman would place coolers full of candy and drinks on many of the tee boxes. He says it helped keep them interested. This evolved into what he now calls "comfort stations," which appear after every few holes at his courses. They offer all manner of drinks, snacks, candy, smoothies, ice-cream cones and more. "They're like a DQ with a bar," he says. "The whole idea is just to make golf an experience that's fun."

Hoping to make the fun last, Meldman offers another uncommon benefit: memberships that extend one generation up and one generation down. So if your parents or grown children visit, they don't pay guest fees or face restrictions about how many times they can play; they're members. "It gives you more justification to spend the money [on a membership], and it gives the clubs a 'legacy' feel," he says.

This program is "highly unusual, and I admire it," says Steve Graves, president of the consulting firm Creative Golf Marketing. Speaking generally of Meldman's efforts to make his clubs more family-oriented, Graves adds, "I don't use this word a lot, but it's brilliant."

What's next for Meldman? He might move beyond private communities and into "boutique luxury resorts" and high-end condo developments, and he's thinking about more international projects. But that's all long-term stuff. In the meantime, he has the five new course developments to keep him busy. Not to mention his golf game, which has undergone a total makeover. "I went from literally not being able to finish a hole to shooting a 73 last year at Baker's Bay," Meldman says, bashing range balls as Haney watches. "It's fun for me now." —PETER FINCH

**BOLDFACE NAMES**

▸ Visit one of Mike Meldman's clubs and chances are you'll see some familiar faces: guys like Wayne Gretzky, Phil Mickelson, Justin Timberlake and Bill Gates. George Clooney has a home at Meldman's El Dorado club in Los Cabos, Mexico. Along with Rande Gerber, husband of Cindy Crawford, Meldman and Clooney are co-owners of the Casamigos tequila brand. Do these kinds of connections help him sell more real estate? They surely don't hurt.

SPOT ILLUSTRATION: PATRICK LEGER



Illustration by Sean McCabe




MITSUHIRO OUCHI/GETTY IMAGES

# Who Needs a Drink?

## 9 cocktails that get their kick from liqueur

You're probably familiar with Baileys and Kahlúa, and you might have tried Romana Sambuca or Jägermeister. But what about those other interesting bottles behind the bar? Here are nine sweetened spirits (liqueurs), and our recommendations for your next 19th-hole order. —RON KASPRISKE

### Chambord ($28)

**TASTES** Sweet and tart raspberry, blackberry, honey, vanilla
**DRINK** Chambord Lemonade (Chambord, vodka, lemonade)

### Disaronno ($25)

**TASTES** Bittersweet orange, almond, apricot
**DRINK** Alabama Slammer (Disaronno, cranberry and lime juice, club soda)

### Frangelico ($24)

**TASTES** Hazelnut, semisweet chocolate, coffee
**DRINK** Bourbon Ball (Frangelico, Woodford Reserve bourbon, white crème de cacao)

### Tuaca ($20)

**TASTES** Vanilla, citrus
**DRINK** Tuaca Ginger-Lime (Tuaca, ginger ale, two lime wedges)

### Drambuie ($31)

**TASTES** Whiskey, herbs, honey
**DRINK** Rusty Nail (Drambuie, scotch, bitters, lemon twist)

### St-Germain ($29)

**TASTES** Elderflower, slightly unripe fruit
**DRINK** Bitter Elder (St-Germain, gin, Campari, lemon juice, lemon twist)

### Cointreau ($32)

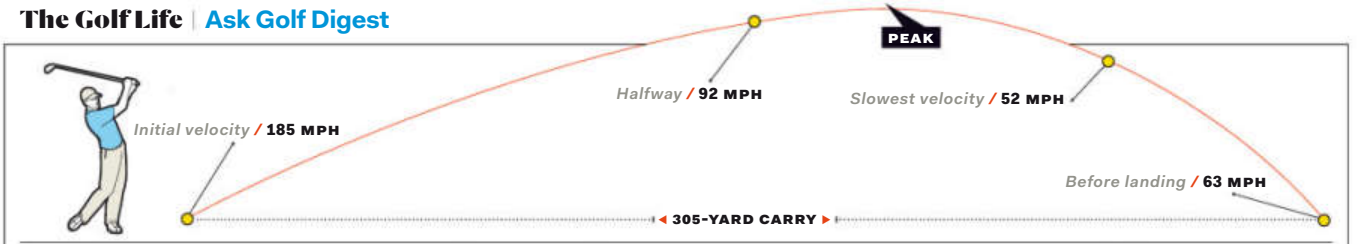
**TASTES** Oranges
**DRINK** Margarita

### Midori ($23)

**TASTES** Sweet melon
**DRINK** Midori Whiskey Sour (Midori, any whiskey, Sprite, lemon juice)

### Southern Comfort ($18)

**TASTES** Syrupy sweet whiskey, cherry, apricot
**DRINK** Slam Dunk (Southern Comfort, orange and cranberry juice)






## Q When does a golf ball achieve its maximum instantaneous velocity? Is it when it leaves the clubface?

ROGER WELBORN, SACRAMENTO

**A** *Whoa,* Roger. Those are pretty big words. Maybe we should explain what "maximum instantaneous velocity" means before answering your question. MIV is determined by first designating a unit of time. For example, you could use an attosecond, which is one quintillionth of a second (or about the amount of time the average teenager spends listening to a calculus teacher). Once you have designated a unit of time, then you can measure a ball's speed during that unit and compare it to its speed during equal units. Luckily, you don't have to do that, because USGA engineer Steve Quintavalla already has your answer: "The ball starts slowing down immediately after leaving the clubface," he says. Interestingly, Quintavalla says, the slowest a ball is moving while airborne isn't just before it hits the ground. It's shortly after it reaches its highest point. Once it starts falling back to earth, it picks up speed again.

### Which is better: the interlocking grip or the overlapping (Vardon) grip?

AL SLAVICH, BATTLE GROUND, WASH.

▸▸▸

The way you hold the club is a personal choice—like going with fries over the side salad at lunch (good choice). Interlock is when you couple your right pinky finger with your left index finger (for right-handed golfers), and overlap (or Vardon) is when you let the pinky rest on the crease between the index and middle fingers. Either way works, says Golf Digest teaching professional Josh Zander. "Tiger and Nicklaus both interlock," he says. "But the problem I see with interlocking is that it puts too much of the handle of the club into the palm of the hand. This can lead to technique issues and a loss of power." Zander prefers the Vardon, although he adds, "Harry Vardon didn't invent the Vardon grip. He just got credit for it."

### Who is responsible for checking that it's safe to hit when you can't see the landing area?

MIKE SPROUTS, NEWTON, N.C.

▸▸▸

Many courses have blind shots in which the player hitting can't see where the ball will land. Some courses use large mirrors to allow players to check those blind areas. Others let the group ahead ring a bell to indicate it's all clear. Some have even installed traffic lights that switch from red to green when it's safe. We're guessing your course doesn't do any of those. If so, the responsibility falls on you. The "Billy said I could hit" defense probably won't hold up in court or when you're face to face with the golfer you just clocked with a Srixon 3.

**IS THIS A THING?**

My buddies say if you know your ball is lost in a pile of leaves, you can drop another ball without penalty. True?

Probably not, but we like the way they think. A course or committee can enact a temporary Local Rule providing relief from certain problem areas where fall is foliating frantically (nice, right?). Once the conditions have changed and the leaves are no longer an issue, the Local Rule should be withdrawn. Frustrating as it might be to lose a perfectly struck golf ball in a pile of leaves, think of this alternative: You could be raking them in your back yard.

**QUICK HITS**

▸ **Tips for golf on a chilly day?** Trip to Florida

▸ **Golf in a sweater or jacket?** See above

▸ **Drink to warm you up?** Iced tea . . . in Florida



**Submit your burning questions here:** ask@golfdigest.com or on Twitter @GolfDigest

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Illustration by Sam Island




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HUNTER KELLOGG/NORTHPORT CREEK

## All in on Solar

## Michigan nine-holer goes off the grid to win Green Star Award

BY RON WHITTEN

Every golf course relies on sunlight to grow healthy grass, but surprisingly few have harnessed the sun to provide electricity. That's why Golf Digest is awarding its 2015 Green Star Award to Northport (Mich.) Creek Golf Course.

The new nine-hole layout—it opened in July 2014—is the first course in the nation designed and built to be totally solar-powered. Its solar cells provide more than enough energy to operate the clubhouse, recharge the golf carts and, most important, pump the wells and irrigation system.

The idea of a 100-percent-renewable golf course was that of Bill Collins, an 83-year-old retired automobile engineer best known for being part of the 1960s Dream Team that conceived the Pontiac Firebird, GTO and Grand Am. (Collins later became the chief engineer behind John DeLorean's ill-fated automobile.) A longtime Northport resident but nongolfer, Collins witnessed a drop in tourism after the local 18-hole course, Matheson Greens, closed in 2000, so when a 63-acre cherry farm was foreclosed in 2011, he and some minority investors bought it. He brought in 81-year-old Michigan golf architect Jerry Matthews, who told him that given the wetlands and other restrictions, there was just enough room for nine holes.

Nine holes was better than nothing. Indeed, new nine-hole courses are a modest trend, as witnessed by the recent Sweetens Cove, Sewanee and The River Club courses in Tennessee, Thousand Acres in Maryland, Rising Sun in Montana and Skyway in New Jersey.

Collins turned to another retired automobile engineer, Tom Gallery, who operates Leelanau Solar. Gallery devised a system so the golf course might never have an electric bill.

Phase One was a "solar farm" of 16 12-panel units installed left of the second fairway, generating an annual energy output of 64,000 kilowatt hours, enough electricity to operate seven average-size homes. It went active in December 2013 to run the state-of-the-art irrigation system installed by Carol Colein, Matthews' wife.

Phase Two, which went online in spring 2014, consists of two arrays of 48 solar panels with computerized tracking to follow the path of the sun. Its output is 21,000 kilowatt hours per year.

In his research, Collins came up with only five courses in America that had retrofit with solar cells to power at least a portion of their operation. One of those, Stevinson Ranch in California, has since closed. "I think the reason most golf courses never considered solar power was cost," Collins says. "Only in recent years has the price of solar cells dropped enough to make it reasonable."

The Phase One solar farm cost $150,000; the Phase Two computerized tracking panels cost $60,000. Collins estimates they'll pay for themselves within 10 years.

Northport Creek has no mammoth array of storage batteries. Instead, it generates electricity and deposits it directly into the local electrical grid. During the winter, when the course is not operating, electrical credits build up. During months of operation, Northport Creek taps into the grid and pays for its use through credit reductions. Thus far, the solar panels have produced more electricity than the course has used. (The club must pay a $25-per-month distribution fee, so it does receive a monthly electric bill after all.)

Collins and his partners paid for the solar-cell system and the $1 million construction costs of the golf course, then turned it over to the village after agreeing to operate it (and absorb any loss) for the next five years.

Because Matthews designed the 3,000-yard, par-36 layout with the sixth hole returning to the clubhouse, the course offers six-, nine- and 18-hole green fees at $12, $17 and $23 weekdays and $17, $26 and $34 weekends (carts $5, $6 and $12). Matthews has been urging the club to also offer late-evening three-hole rounds. To wring out the last few bits of sunlight at twilight, so to speak. Much as the solar panels do each evening.

**PAST WINNERS**

**2009** / Barton Creek Resort & Spa (Austin), Kiawah Island (S.C.) Golf Resort, Pebble Beach Resorts, Sunriver (Ore.) Resort

**2010** / Madden's on Gull Lake, Brainerd, Minn.

**2011** / Barona Resort & Casino, Lakeside, Calif.

**2012** / Bandon (Ore.) Dunes Golf Resort

**2013** / Bear Trace at Harrison (Tenn.) Bay

**2014** / Pinehurst (N.C.) No. 2 and Pasatiempo G.C., Santa Cruz, Calif

*To nominate a course for a Green Star award, email us at editors@golfdigest.com*

The players who are close to him say they've never seen his wrong side. Not once.

# Undercover Tour Pro

## Why I changed my mind about Phil

The PGA Tour arranges our lockers in alphabetical order. Week in and week out, you're changing your shoes and unpacking your bags next to the same handful of guys. My best friends are mostly my peers, guys who were rookies when I was a rookie, but inevitably I've become chummy with the fellas whose last names start with letters close to mine. With one notable exception: Phil Mickelson and I aren't friends. Outside the two rounds we've played together, we haven't spoken two words to one another.

The first time Phil and I were paired, it was pretty late on a Sunday. We were both in the hunt. The conditions were tough, windy, and Phil was all smiles on the first tee. As he shakes my hand he says in that super-duper-friendly voice, "OK, hey, how's it going? Let's have a good day. All right."

The entire round Phil talked about himself. Stories from tournaments he'd played in, trips he'd taken with his family, random facts he'd recently read about obscure topics. Not once did he ask if I had a family, or where I lived, or what tournament I was playing next. However, Phil's caddie, Jim Mackay, happens to be one of the most personable guys out here. Bones talks like he genuinely wants to get to know you. It's like he picks up the slack for Phil.

Truth is, I wasn't much of a conversationalist that day, either, because I was grinding hard. I didn't win the tournament, but I did beat Phil by a shot.

The second time I played with Phil was two years later. Same deal. If he wasn't telling us some incredible story or his plan to solve the world's oil crisis, he was walking down the fairway like the mayor, giving the crowd a thumbs up every hole and practically kissing babies as part of his pre-shot routine.

I forget what I shot, but Phil went low and cut me by quite a few. In the scoring trailer, I'm checking my card when I feel this bump in my ribs. I look over, and it's Phil nudging me. With a big grin, he says, "I guess that makes us even now."

He remembered that I'd beaten him. The dude's played over 2,000 rounds out here. I'm not exactly an A-lister, so that surprised me. Pretty cool moment.

Phil definitely rubs some players the wrong way, and I used to be in this camp. But my opinion has changed. I think any ill will toward him is simply rooted in jealousy. Some players just don't want to believe anyone could be that talented, good-looking, rich and polite, with a beautiful wife and three great kids. He's probably sacrificed some time having locker-room camaraderie with the boys in favor of building his brand. The players who are close to him say they've never seen his wrong side. Not once. Never snapped at a volunteer, never stiffed a waiter, never been small in any of the ways most humans are now and again. I think every day he and Amy work hard at doing the right thing, whether the cameras are rolling or not. It's a conscious choice.

If a person makes an effort to smile when he's not feeling happy, does that make him a phony? I don't think so. Constantly making the effort to be the person he is, signing autographs until dusk, always carving time to speak with sponsors and giving it his full attention—that's why Phil earns every dollar of the $50 million or so sponsors pay him each year.

Phil likes playing the role of mentor, so that's why you'll see him playing practice rounds with guys like Rickie Fowler and Keegan Bradley. I've been on tour over a decade, and so he probably doesn't have much time for a guy like me. I get it.

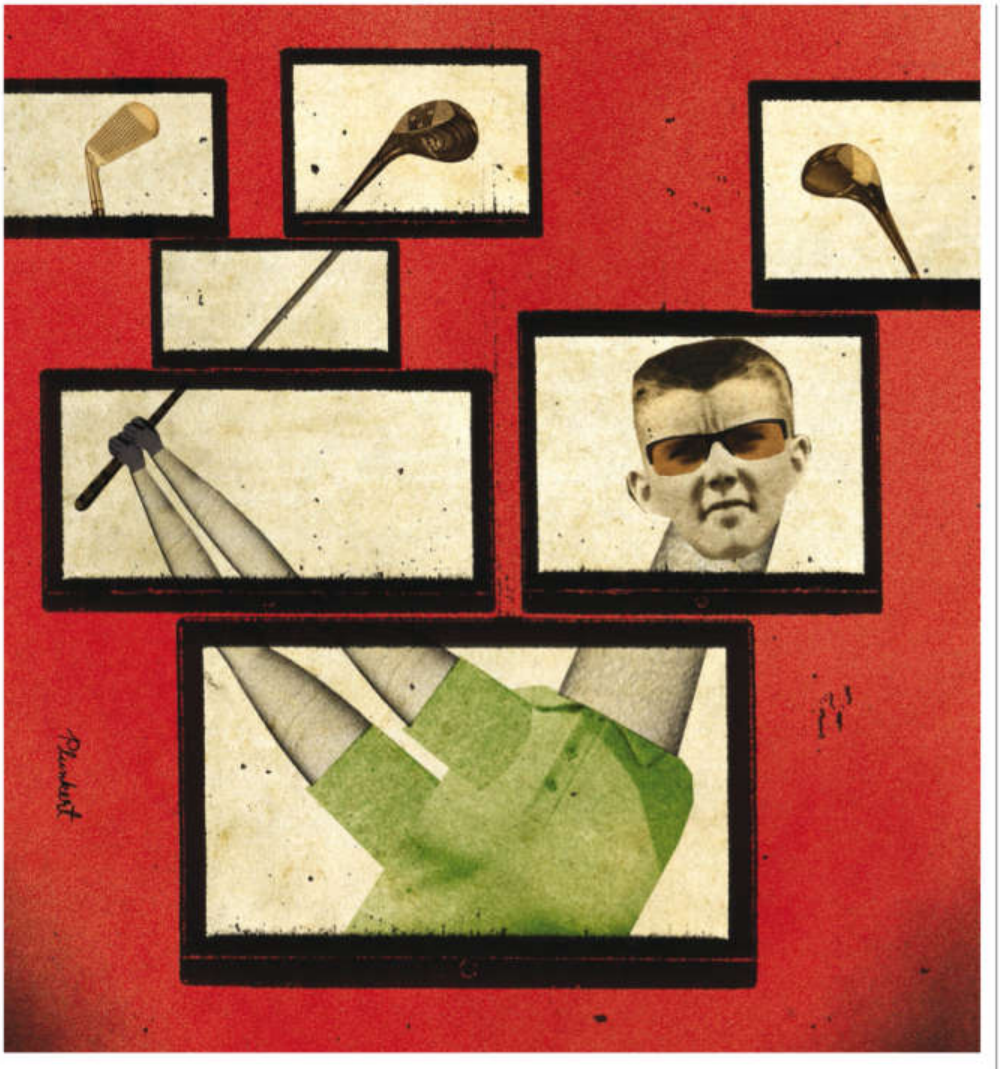
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Illustration by First Lastname

# Content sellers eye the future in network TV, cable and emerging digital platforms.



## Big TV Deals, Big Changes for Consumers

### New platforms alter upcoming negotiations

BY RON SIRAK

It's a tumultuous time in live-sports programming as crucial television negotiations for golf loom against a backdrop of new media developing seemingly endless options catering to individual tastes.

With the USGA championships owned by Fox Sports through 2026, the British Open controlled by NBC/Golf Channel through 2028, the Ryder Cup under contract with NBC/Golf Channel until 2030 and pretty much everyone agreeing the Masters will keep its one-year deals with CBS and ESPN essentially in perpetuity, the next key TV dates in golf are 2019 and 2021. That's an eternity in the rapidly changing world of media, but those deals are already very much on the minds of the key players.

In 2019, the contracts CBS and TNT have with the PGA Championship expire, as does the LPGA deal with Golf Channel. Two years later, the PGA Tour's deals with CBS, NBC and Golf Channel run out. At the moment, it's a seller's market, with Fox and NBC launching all-sports channels to compete with ESPN, creating a windfall for those owning live sports—the product advertisers love.

"There has been $140 billion in sports-media business deals since 2010," says a source involved with brokering those deals, "and ESPN and Fox have done about $80 billion of that." Though the growth in rights fees is expected to cool somewhat, all the experts say the demand for live events—viewers don't DVR them and skip the commercials—remains high.

What content sellers are trying to figure out is what the future holds for delivery of those products as network TV, cable and the emerging digital platforms jockey for dominance.

"The challenge for those selling content is whether to sign a long-term deal for oodles of cash or sign a short-term deal and roll the dice on what new opportunities will be out there a few years from now," says David Carter of the consulting firm Sports Business Group and a professor at the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California.

Indeed, the $93-million-a-year USGA deal came nowhere near breaking even for Fox Sports in its first year. Multiple industry sources say Fox lost $50 million on the U.S. Open—a figure Fox disputes without supplying alternative numbers. But those same experts say a decade from now the USGA deal might look like a steal for Fox as it drives up the subscription base of the fledgling Fox Sports 1 cable channel.

"You can't look at an event in a profit-and-loss silo," says the source involved in brokering broadcast deals, who was not involved in the Fox/USGA negotiations. "Fox needs quality summer programming for FS1. This is a long-term deal that will work out for them."

In more than a dozen interviews with network executives, analysts, those who control the rights to tournaments, and agents who do media contracts—most speaking anonymously so they would not compromise their role in upcoming negotiations—Golf Digest uncovered a picture in which experts say rights fees will continue to grow even as buyers and sellers of content try to fig-



Illustration by David Plunkert

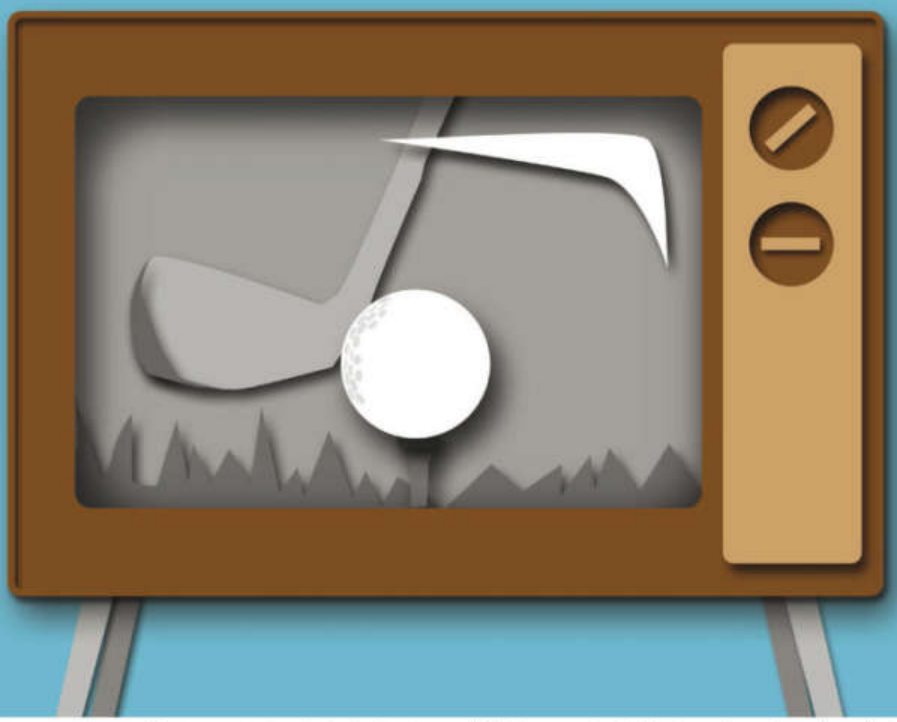
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"What if Google were to buy CBS, for example?"

ure out how to make money off new media. Though the future of media is an uncertain haze—the buzz words are "cord-cutters," for those abandoning cable for digital content and watching content on personal devices other than a traditional TV—money continues to flow.

"We've heard about the 'bubble' in sports for more than 40 years," says a source who for decades has been on both sides of TV talks, as a buyer and a seller. "There was a bubble [in the late '70s], then ESPN entered the scene. [In the early '90s], there was another bubble, and Fox Sports came along. Another decade passed, and the promise of the Internet was next. Now we're in a place where technology can deliver high-quality video in a variety of ways. The owners of the content are still in the catbird seat." As proof of that, ESPN showed 135 Little League World Series games this year. And one of golf's selling points is that it's an all-day affair that can be cut into portions rather than limited to a two- or three-hour window.

The experts also agree that the PGA Tour will remain strong with young talent like Jordan Spieth, Rory McIlroy, Jason Day and Rickie Fowler, and that the women's game is a growth product with young, talented, multinational stars. The challenge is for traditional business models to adapt to new realities: Golf Channel and ESPN were forced to cut budgets this year.

"There will be unbundling [of cable]," says Carter, predicting that instead of being forced to pay $99 for 200 channels, for example, the consumer might be offered 40 channels for $29, opting not to purchase all of the ESPN or Fox or NBC products, but just the ones you want.

"And there will be players that don't even exist right now," Carter says. "We've gone through several technology cycles in a relatively short period of time: TiVo, Yahoo, Google, YouTube, Periscope. Start-ups that deliver content in a different way can disrupt things."

But new players can also breathe new life into the industry. Though the kings of content production—CBS, NBC, ESPN, Fox, TNT—are likely to remain the major players, new forces are sure to emerge, as will new ways to deliver content. The trick is to figure out how to make money off those new forms of delivery.

Though new media giants pose a threat, they also provide an opportunity. "You want competitive bidding in the marketplace," says the source with experience as a buyer and a seller. "AT&T just bought DirecTV [for $48.5 billion]. They could be bidding for tournaments. But pretend you're Google. Do you want to buy a bunch of content, or do you want to buy a network that already has content? What if Google were to buy CBS, for example?"

"Clearly [the PGA Tour] is asking, 'What's the next thing?' " says a source familiar with its thinking, noting that the tour is the only major sport without its own network. "[The tour] is trying to figure out how it can develop other platforms without displacing its TV partners."

The PGA Tour lined up its negotiations for the 2021 talks in 2011, signing deals with CBS and NBC structured to end when its Golf Channel deal ran out. And then a couple of years back, the tour, which had co-produced its Web presence with Turner, took control of that product so it could construct an all-encompassing deal in 2021.

"All the rights they have are going to be available at the same time, which is by design," a New York-based source involved in TV talks says about the Florida-based tour.

Though spikes like the $1.1 billion deal the USGA signed with Fox in 2013—to $93 million a year, up from $37 million annually under its previous contract with NBC and ESPN—are unlikely to continue, the ripple effect is still being felt. Two months later, NBC extended its Ryder Cup deal with the PGA of America through 2030. Earlier this year, NBC/Golf Channel took the British Open away from ESPN, paying nearly twice the $25 million a year ESPN was paying, according to multiple sources.

The core message of selling golf to television has always been: *We might not deliver NFL-like ratings, but we deliver an upscale audience that spends money.* Marketing golf has as much to do with selling the quality of the audience to advertisers as it does with selling the quality of the players to that audience.

Part of what Fox gains from its USGA contract is a more upscale viewer, which attracts a more upscale advertiser. Golf strayed a bit from that marketing message during the heady TV ratings spikes created by Tiger Woods, but it has returned to its core value: Quantity doesn't matter as much as quality.

### CORRESPONDING CUTS

As rights fees have risen dramatically, they have caused some cuts in the industry. The Hollywood Reporter says ESPN has been told by its parent, Disney, to trim $100 million from its 2016 budget and $250 million from the 2017 budget, figures that ESPN, which declined to address the matter for this article, says are not accurate.

But undisputed is the fact that ESPN, like other cable networks, has seen cord-cutters flee, costing the network more than 3.2 million subscribers in barely more than a year, according to the Wall Street Journal.

"ESPN was not a factor in the bidding [for the British Open]," says a source involved in those talks. In fact, multiple sources say ESPN is trying to get out of the final year of its British Open deal—but at a hefty price. An ESPN spokesman told Golf Digest: "We have a contract for 2016." NBC/Golf Channel takes over in 2017, but don't be surprised if the change happens a year earlier.

Golf Channel, which like NBC/Universal is owned by the cable giant Comcast, laid off about 3 percent of its workforce in May. The cuts were pretty much all in the reality-show division and not in live golf coverage. No on-air talent was affected.

"I think the kind of explosion [in rights fees] you've seen in the last few years is not going to sustain itself," says one broadcast executive. "But you will continue to see strength in the marketplace. I think the next major deals—the PGA Championship and the PGA Tour—will remain primarily in broadcast TV. The [tour's] sponsor model is based on network TV. Network TV is still seen at the prestige place to be."

The PGA Tour sells about two-thirds of the commercial time on network TV to its title sponsors and business partners, sources say, creating a virtually no-lose situation for the rights holders. That will make the competition for the post-2021 contract hotly contested, putting Golf Channel in an awkward position. "It would be a disaster for Golf Channel if it lost the PGA Tour deal," an industry source says.

And what will the broadcast industry look like when those contracts come up for bid?

"That is the billion-dollar question," the network executive says. "All of us are hedging our bets by getting involved in new media—whichever way we think the advertisers go, whichever way the revenue goes, we will adapt. The real issue is monetizing those alternative forms of delivery. Right now, [revenue] comes from advertising and subscription fees rather than new media."

Never has the word "media" applied as broadly as it does now. Network TV, cable, print and digital have all been tossed into a blender of endless and evolving possibilities. Though the final product remains a mystery, it's clear sports are a huge part of the mix—and that golf is a key ingredient. Content remains king, and golf is quality content.

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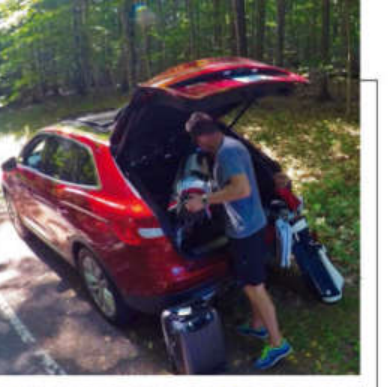
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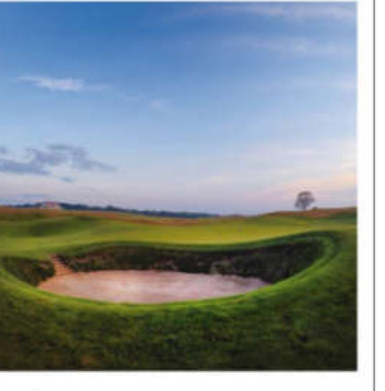
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# Into the Wild

## Want a refreshing twist to your next golf trip? Try Northern Michigan

▸ Clockwise: the first tee at Treetops' Signature Course; unpacking our Lincoln MKX; our foursome from left: Tom, me, Kira and Adam; fly-fishing the Au Sable River; one of Arcadia Bluffs' massive bunkers.

There are golf trips and then there are golf *adventures*. What's the difference? A golf trip typically confines you to, well, golf. Playing 45 holes in a day and then passing out before dessert, only to do it again the next day. An adventure, on the other hand, combines golf with other cool activities that are unique to the area you're visiting. Northern Michigan is perfect for that. When I went there in June with my sister, Kira, her husband, Adam Condello, and my friend, Tom Freeman, we drove 500 miles to combine fly-fishing, hiking and brewery-hopping between rounds.

First, how to get there: We flew into Traverse City, which is on the northwest coast of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Detroit is four hours or more south by car, whereas Traverse City is close enough to all the good stuff you'll want to see and do—not to mention it's home to several microbreweries. There are also plenty of summer flights into the town's airport.

As for the quality of golf in the region, I promise you won't be disappointed. We played amazing public courses like Arcadia Bluffs, Forest Dunes, Cedar River and the Signature Course at the Treetops Resort. Not sure how, but each managed to look and play differently than the next despite residing in roughly the same topography. Though much of the state is flat, driving through Northern Michigan is a picturesque ride over big hills and small mountains (you can ski here in the winter) covered by dense pine forests, sandy dunes and framed by two Great Lakes—Michigan and Huron.

We darted around in a new 2016 Lincoln MKX. Not only could we fit in it with our golf bags, it was loaded with cool stuff like a 13-speaker audio system and seats that were seemingly designed for golfers—they actively massage your back! But as I mentioned earlier, it was the other activities that made the trip special.

We went fly-fishing for trout in the Au Sable River near Forest Dunes. We rode a ferry to historic Mackinac Island off the coast and enjoyed its horse-drawn carriage rides (no cars are allowed) and homemade fudge. We also hoofed it along Lake Michigan on the trails of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

It's worth mentioning that we did all of this and still managed to play six courses and to get enough sleep that we didn't need a vacation to recover from our six-day vacation. When you're on a golf adventure like this, you have no problem staying awake. —ASHLEY MAYO

ASHLEY MAYO



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# The hardest hole is the hole with the highest stroke average, period.

## Hung Up on Labels

## When an easy par 5 is a hard par 4, and it's the same hole

BY DAVID OWEN



When television commentators talk about the "hardest hole" on a golf course, they're almost always wrong. Usually, the hole they're referring to is the hardest par—or the hardest par 4—and that's not the same thing. The hardest hole is the hole with the highest stroke average, period.

My home course has just nine holes; to make a complete round you play it twice, from different tees. Our sixth hole is a par 5 the first time and a par 4 the second. Most members think of the par 4 as the harder hole, because the par 5 is easier to par, but the par 4 is actually easier, because the tee is 60 yards closer to the green. The goal in golf is not to shoot par, or even to make birdies. The goal is to take as few strokes as possible, and when you lop 60 yards off a hole you make doing that easier, not harder—exactly as you would if you bought a new driver that made you 60 yards longer off the tee.

Par is an arbitrary designation, not a limit. I recently played an extremely short course, whose second-longest hole was less than 200 yards. Regulars think of that hole as easy, because it's listed on the scorecard as a par 4. If it were called a par 3, they would think of it as hard—but it would be the same hole. My father and his friends reckoned par the way bond traders do, as 100. Doing that made them happier about shooting crummy scores, but it didn't turn them into better golfers. Their 98s were still 98s, even if they called them "two under."

Golfers playing an unfamiliar course will sometimes ask whether a particular hole is a par 4 or a par 5—and then play it differently, depending on the answer. But that makes no sense. If going for the green in two (or three or four) is the right choice for that golfer at that moment, it's the right choice no matter what the scorecard says par is. Playing a hole "in regulation" doesn't protect you from an opponent who plays it one stroke better, and three-putting is still three-putting even if by doing so you don't "lose" a stroke to par.

I'm an unreliable judge of golf courses, because I've never played one I didn't like, but I get annoyed when I hear a golfer dismiss a course as "not much of a test." Usually he means that when he played it he had no trouble shooting whatever he shot. But as long as you need more than 18 strokes to play 18 holes you have room for improvement. If you think a course is boringly easy because you routinely play it in the low 70s, you need to start thinking about playing it in the high 60s. You haven't used it up yet.

During this year's Open Championship, at the Old Course, the commentators and just about everyone else said the hardest hole was the 17th, the Road Hole, on which the final-round scoring average was 4.80, almost a full stroke over par. But the hardest hole, by far, was actually the 14th, on which the scoring average was 5.225, more than four-tenths of a stroke higher. Now, No. 14 is labeled a par 5 and No. 17 a par 4, but so what? If the R&A had called the Road Hole a par 5 and the 14th a par 4 (or a par 6), the results would have been the same. Jordan Spieth would still have needed to shoot 273 to get into the playoff, and Zach Johnson would still be the guy with the claret jug.

People were also wrong about the Open's easiest hole, which they invariably said was No. 5, a 570-yard par 5. Over all four rounds it averaged 4.464, a half-stroke under par, but it was actually the Open's third-hardest hole, because its stroke average was just a fraction behind the Road Hole's. The truly easiest holes (as is almost always the case) were the shortest ones—Nos. 8 and 11, the only par 3s—which averaged nearly a stroke and a half lower than No. 5. Alister MacKenzie once wrote that the 11th "may be considered one of the ideal holes of the world." Too bad it's not much of a test.

Illustration by Tamer Koseli

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GolfDigestix

# SCOTTSDALE

## *the new brand of the old west*



The Stadium Course at TPC Scottsdale is the host site for the PGA Tour's Waste Management Phoenix Open.

**Scottsdale's abundant beauty, perfect weather, myriad golf courses and amazing dining options make it the *ideal winter getaway* for any golf group.**

When it comes to the greatest golf courses in Arizona, the list of those open to the public starts with the **TPC Scottsdale**, the host of the Waste Management Phoenix Open. Not only is the Stadium Course the most popular fan experience on the entire PGA Tour, it's also a fantasy for those who get to test this terrific course that was redesigned last year by noted architect Tom Weiskopf. And while the best players on the planet love the Stadium, the TPC's other big-time offering, the Champions Course, gets a lot of rave reviews as well.

Just a year ago, the Stadium Course underwent a $15 million renovation. The refurbished fairways, bunkers and greens are even more fabulous one year later, as are the club's Latin-influenced restaurant and expanded locker room. The Champions Course is sneaky tough and always in top condition, which explains why it's the perennial site for the finals of the Champions Tour Q-School.

OPEN →

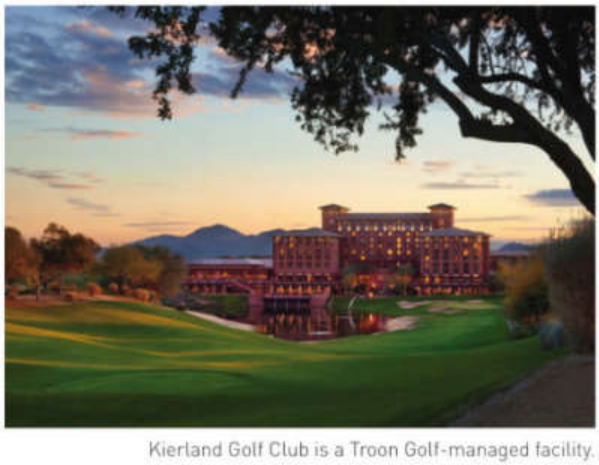
Fun to play and always a memorable round, golfers can book their next Tour "fantasy" at this outstanding TPC facility by visiting tpc.com/scottsdale.

Industry leader **Troon Golf**'s popular portfolio of awesome alternatives starts with its original flagship property, Troon North, and includes such diverse options in the Greater Scottsdale area as The Boulders, the Westin Kierland, The Phoenician, Ocotillo Golf Resort, Lookout Mountain, Ak-Chin Southern Dunes and SunRidge Canyon, which recently joined the Troon collection of affiliated clubs after completing a major renovation.

Just in the Scottsdale area alone Troon Golf represents 207 holes of golf, many of which have deservingly earned signature status. Troon North certainly has a bunch of gems with its award-winning Monument and Pinnacle courses, while The Boulders also features 36 holes of surreal golf on the rocks with its spectacular North and South layouts. A major renovation has also given Ak-Chin Southern Dunes a fresh, new look, and Ak-Chin's new family-friendly #miniDunes course (yes, the hashtag is part of the name) offers complimentary golf to juniors 17 and under every afternoon.

Golfers who follow the Troon brand can also enjoy such innovative initiatives such as the popular Troon Rewards loyalty program, as well as Troon Values Your Time, Troon Family Golf and TroonFIT, to name a few. For everything that is Troon in Arizona—tee times, group outings and stay-and-play packages—visit TroonGolfAZ.com.

When it comes to award-winning golf played in pure, natural desert surroundings, it's hard to look past **We-Ko-Pa Golf Club**, where nary a house is in sight. The Saguaro and Cholla courses at We-Ko-Pa not only provide an awesome one-two punch of perfection, they also feature uncluttered views of such



Kierland Golf Club is a Troon Golf-managed facility.



The Saguaro Course at We-Ko-Pa Golf Club.

nearby wonders as Four Peaks, Red Mountain and the Tonto National Forest, as well as the Superstition and McDowell mountain ranges.

The noted architectural team of Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw created the Saguaro course with its split fairways and dramatic doglegs, while Scott Miller designed the Cholla with variety and views in mind. Both courses feature the kind of championship golf you never grow tired of, meaning you can play them day after day after day.

It's really no surprise that We-Ko-Pa has become the ultimate golf destination in Arizona, especially with the renovation and relaunch of We-Ko-Pa Resort & Conference Center. Among the resort's many amenities are Fort McDowell Adventures, a classy casino and outdoor opportunities like horseback riding, kayaking, jeep tours and cowboy cookouts. And the San Francisco Giants, Colorado Rockies and Arizona Diamondbacks—the kings of the Cactus League—are just a short drive away. For more information about We-Ko-Pa, go to wekopagolf.com.

Views, variety and value also are a big part of the overall Scottsdale golf scene, and no one manages more "talked about" tracks in those categories than **OB Sports Management**. Headquartered in Scottsdale, OB Sports has a long history of success in the industry dating back to 1972, and currently manages over 60 premier courses and country clubs throughout the nation.

OB Sports' Fab Four of Scottsdale-area courses include Eagle Mountain Golf Club, McDowell Mountain Golf Club, Longbow Golf Club and ASU Karsten Golf Course. All feature desert golf that is pristine and playable, as well as some of the most spectacular, panoramic views in the Valley of the Sun. OB Sports also offers one of the best golf apps in the business—a free download that will help you book tee times, get detailed information about its clubs and courses,



Eagle Mountain Golf Club is managed by OB Sports.

access card member programs and learn about other courses managed by OB Sports.

Known for its comprehensive and personalized service, as well as its immaculate conditioning and card programs, OB Sports has become widely acclaimed as the leader in boutique-style golf course management. To experience OB Sports at its very best, visit obsports.com.

Savvy golfers love Scottsdale. But where do they stay when the sun finally sets on the 19th hole? Welcome to the wonderful world of **Meridian CondoResorts**, where you will find amazingly affordable accommodations that boast location, location, location, along with all the golf you can play. Or as the good folks at Meridian like to say: "Play hard and rest easy." It's difficult to one-up Meridian CondoResorts, the home of UNLIMITED GOLF at many of Scottsdale's most spectacular layouts.

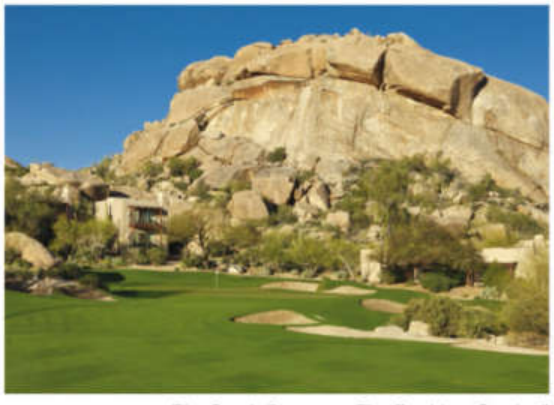
The incredible list of courses where you will receive UNLIMITED GOLF includes elite tracks as the TPC Scottsdale and Troon North. Meridian CondoResort's pricing on golf packages continues to be the best value in town, starting at $79 per night. Just as important, Meridian CondoResort's professional staff is loaded with "local knowledge." It's the type of insider information that can lead to the golf trip of a lifetime.

For over 20 years, Meridian CondoResorts has been the perfect place for golf groups large or small, and every luxurious condo comes with free long distance service to the U.S. and Canada, free WiFi and state-of-the-art TVs. For the very best in stay-and-play packages along with five-star service and resort amenities that can't be equaled, visit CondoResorts.com.

While the great golf in Scottsdale goes without saying, Arizona's most interesting city is also a modern-day vacation mecca, where urban sizzle blends beautifully with high-desert serenity.



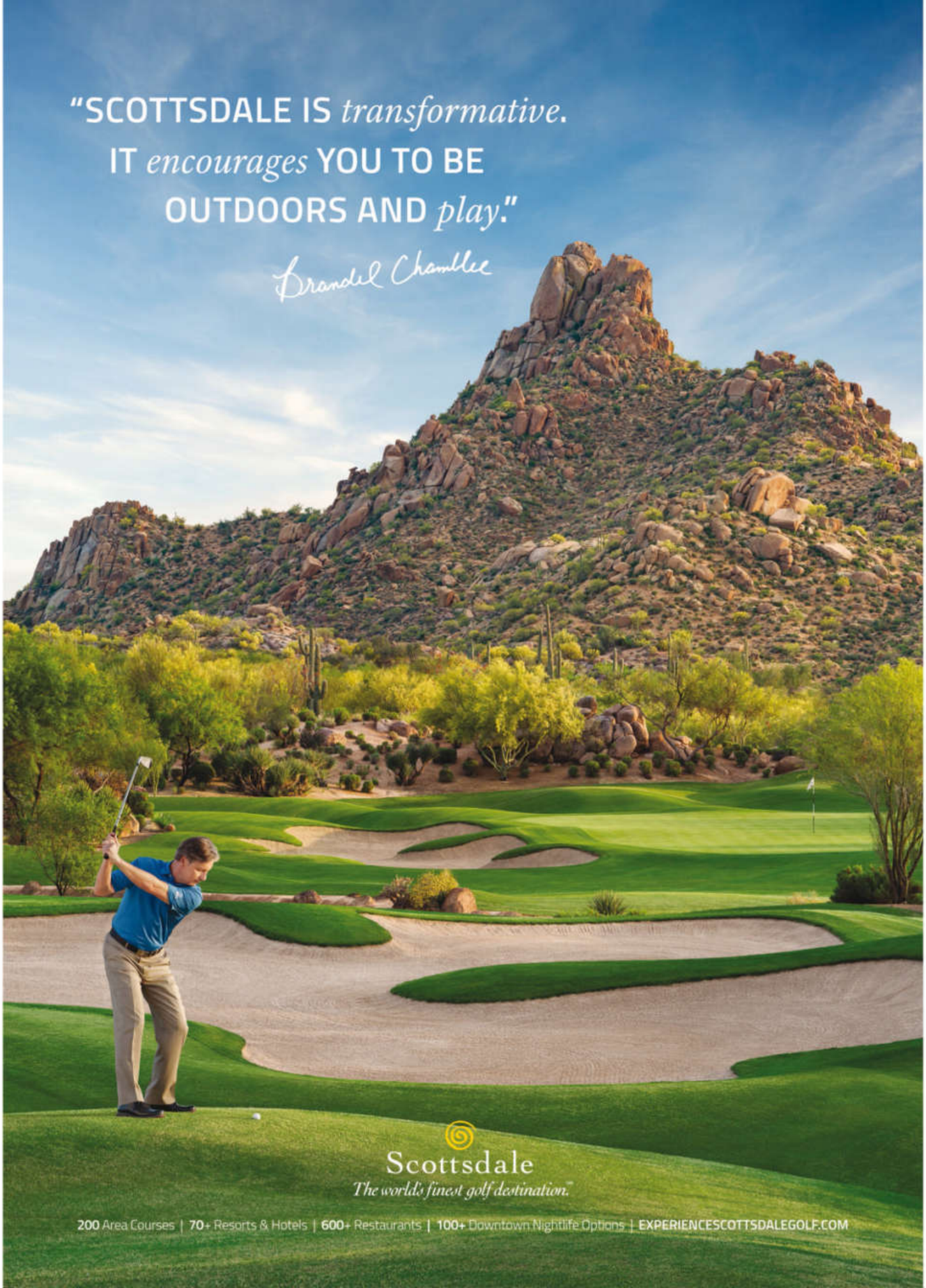
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The South Course at The Boulders "rocks."

In fact, Scottsdale has made world-class luxury and celebrated golf courses the new brand of the Old West. And while the game can be played both morning and night thanks to numerous lighted facilities and over 50 lush courses, it's hard to tee it up 24/7 when spa experiences, high-end shopping, diverse dining, neon-lit nightclubs and a plethora of seasonal events like the Waste Management Phoenix Open and Spring Training are calling your name.

Resort packages that offer all types of fun for every member of the family, as well as golf itineraries designed with local knowledge in mind, are just an Internet visit away. The list of places to stay and play is a mile long, so take advantage of what Scottsdale's experts have to say. To book the best of the best, go to **experiencescottsdalegolf.com**.


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# START FINISH

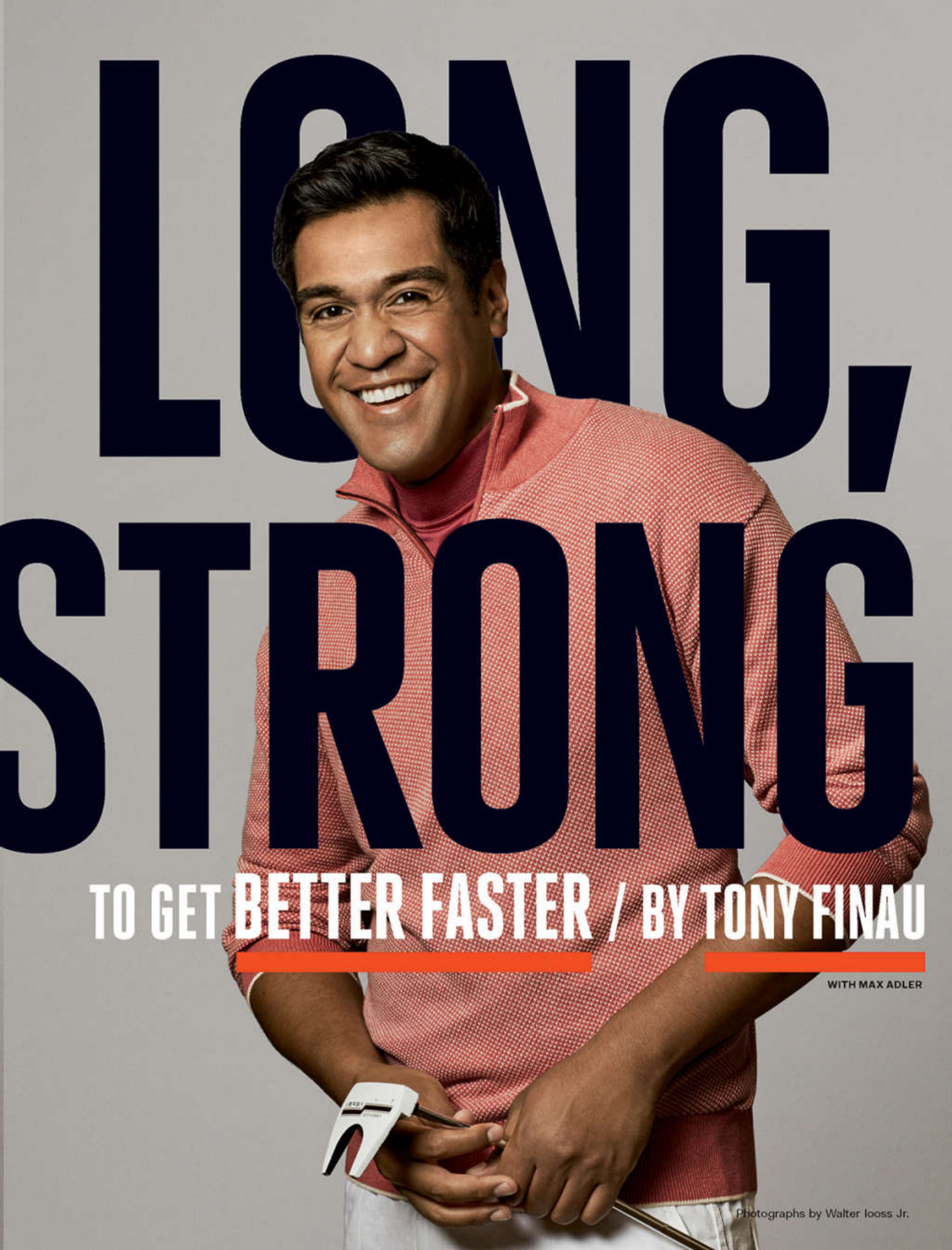


## FOCUS ON YOUR DRIVING & PUTTING

# LONG, STRONG

## TO GET BETTER FASTER / BY TONY FINAU

WITH MAX ADLER



Photographs by Walter Iooss Jr.

IF

you drive and putt well, you're going to have a pretty easy day. Not to discount the importance of iron play or chipping, but starting and finishing holes well is how you write a lot of small numbers on your scorecard. I also think these skills are related because they're the simplest shots: The tee box and the green are the only places you get ball in hand. Plus, your goals are straightforward—any part of the fairway or cup will do. ▸ More than other aspects of the game, becoming a good driver and putter is about learning to be automatic. With approach shots there's a lot to think about. You're factoring multiple yardages and guessing how the lie might affect impact. Chipping and bunker shots allow even more room for creativity and club selection. But on drives and putts you train your mind and body to do the same thing over and over without thinking too much. Here's my approach for the tee and the green, with nothing in between.

## DRIVE IT LIKE A KID

I'm fortunate to be built as I am (6-foot-4, 200 pounds). A good drive for me carries 320 yards. I don't lift weights. I do a lot of stretching to stay supple and pride myself on being able to smoothly dial back my distance when a hole demands it. I also hit a 3-wood and 18-degree driving iron a fair amount. My driving iron goes about 260.

*Must be nice*, you're probably thinking. Well, I know what it's like to be short, too.

The first hole at the course where my brother and I grew up, a par-3 called Jordan River in Salt Lake City, was 162 yards. There was a hump halfway to the green. For the longest time, I couldn't get my tee shot over that hump. The first time I cleared it—with a hybrid, because Dad hadn't bought Gipper and me drivers yet—I was 8 years old. The ball disappeared, went like 90 yards total, and I thought, *I'm a man now.*

I tell you this story because remembering how it feels to be a kid is a great trick for any golfer to get loose over the ball. I love how tension-free kids are when they waggle. It's like they're all coordination and no muscle. And when you're young, you don't think about things like head position or shoulder alignment. Fairways look a mile wide, so you pretty much whip the driver as fast as you can without falling over. On the PGA Tour, it doesn't take much of a spray to miss a fairway, especially when you're looking as far down them as I do. That's when I try to pretend I'm a kid again. I just see a target, like the crest of a hill, and go for it. I'm not used to hitting every fairway, so I don't panic when I miss one.

I also played a lot of basketball growing up. Often I've heard teachers say the correct golf stance feels like you're guarding someone on defense. That's a good tip, but you have to understand how to guard. You don't lock your knees and get tight and antsy. You constantly stay moving, fluid and relaxed, almost like you're dancing.

Boyd Summerhays, my coach, says that a tight mind leads to a tight body. The reverse is also true. That's why my other key to staying loose is to always set the club first. Only when the clubface is looking at the target do I then bring my feet in and square my hips and shoulders. I see too many amateurs take their stance before they get the club into position. So they stand still that much longer before hitting the shot, and that gives them too much time to freeze up.

Though it might disappoint some spectators at the range, before a round I rarely hit more than 10 drivers. Partly, I'm conserving energy, but more importantly, I'm visualizing certain holes on the course and giving myself one chance to hit each tee shot. Hopefully I hit them well and can call on those positive feelings later on.

Of course, when I played Jordan River last year, I didn't need more than pitching wedge on any of the holes. But I still had to make some putts.

**REMEMBERING HOW IT FEELS TO BE A KID IS A GREAT TRICK TO GET LOOSE OVER THE BALL.**

**MY PUTTING TRIGGER IS A FORWARD PRESS. OTHERS RAISE THE PUTTER OR EVEN TAP THEIR TOES.**

## PUTT LIKE A BIG MAN

Because of my length, I've always felt underrated as a putter. That's OK: Better to have a reputation for something than nothing. In high school basketball I was the big man hanging underneath the hoop, and I think all the time there helped me develop touch and craftiness.

If I could summarize my approach to putting in one word, it would be "speed." I believe that on an ideal putt the ball trickles in on its last rotation. That's why I always read the maximum amount of break. A lot of guys out here talk about ramming putts into the back of the cup. They'll tell you perfect speed is when you give it enough that the ball would roll 18 to 24 inches past. I think that's too much. Psychologically, you might feel better knowing you gave it a healthy chance, but at that pace you're going to lip out a lot. If the ball's rolling 10 inches or fewer by the cup, you catch any piece of it, low side or high side, and the ball can fall in. It's the same principle in basketball: Soft-handed layups tend to find the net even if they bounce around the rim a bit first.

When I arrive to the practice green, I always drop two balls and putt to the nearest hole. I don't care what the length is or if I make either; I'm only trying to tune in the speed. If you always start at a predetermined distance, like three or four feet, your stroke can be rigid because you'll be trying too hard to putt the ball straight from the outset. If you focus only on the speed, you'll find it easier to hit it straight.

I've talked to other right-handed tour players who say they try to slightly push right-to-left breaking putts and slightly pull left-to-right breaking putts. The idea being, you aim straighter—say, right edge instead of a ball out—and then roll the ball counter to the break with a little push. I don't know about you, but I think that's way too complicated.

I'd rather have a clear head, and that's why it's essential to have a trigger. I putt with a lot of forward press, pushing my hands toward the target to initiate the motion. So the moment my hands shift, that's my cue to begin the stroke and let my mind just go blank. At that point, I've either practiced enough hours to have a sound stroke, or I haven't. Last-second manipulations usually don't work out. I've seen other good putters who raise the clubhead off the ground to start or even tap their toes. Any little movement like that helps.

After you make the putt, take out your driver and enjoy the walk to the next tee. If you really smash one, you'll have that putter back in your hands before you know it.

---

**TONY FINAU** *ranks seventh on the PGA Tour in driving distance and second in total birdies.*


REE TO GREEN
HOW TO HIT IT OVER, UNDER OR



# R AROUND ANY OBSTACLE BY KEVIN KISNER

## KEEPING IT UNDER



This is usually your best and safest option. First, select a club longer than you'd normally use from this distance and grip down about an inch. This will help lower the ball flight but still produce the required distance. Next, address the ball with your feet no more than shoulder-width apart, and feel like your chest is directly over it—my teacher, John Tillery, emphasizes this point. Swing the club on a plane more horizontal than vertical, like tracing the path of a Hula-Hoop. This will keep you under the branches but will let you hit it high enough to get good distance.

## TAKING IT OVER



Pick a club you feel confident can get the ball over the tree. If you're between two clubs, always go with more loft. Ball position is crucial. Address it almost like you were hitting a driver, off your front heel. Your left shoulder should be noticeably higher than your right, and your spine tilted away from the target. This setup will promote a higher shot. When you swing, try to hit up on the ball. To do that, make a shallow pass through impact, skimming the ground right before and after the strike.

One word of caution: When you start the downswing, make sure you shift your weight to the left side. If it stays back, you'll likely hit the ball thin—and too low to get over the tree.

## GOING AROUND



You can make the ball curve simply by adjusting your setup. If you want to go around a tree on a right-to-left path, address the ball just back of center in your stance. Then set the clubface behind the ball so it's aimed right of the tree. Line up your shoulders, hips and feet so they're pointing even farther to the right. Finally, swing along your body line.

To make the ball curve left to right, play it farther forward than center and set the clubface so it's pointing left of the tree. Align your body even farther left than the clubface. Then swing along your body line. Follow this formula, and you can curve a ball around anything and turn a potential double bogey into a nice par save.

—WITH RON KASPRISKE

**Kevin Kisner** has three second-place finishes on tour in 2015 and is top 20 in scrambling.



# MURDERING YOUR

Illustrations by Eddie Guy



# GOLF CLUBS

## 'SOMETIMES A CLUB JUST HAS TO DIE'

BY DAVE SHEDLOSKI



> I never lost my temper with my opponent. I was only angry with myself. It always seemed . . . such an utterly useless and idiotic thing to stand up to a perfectly simple shot, one that I know I can make a hundred times running without a miss—and then mess up the blamed thing, the one time I want to make it! And it is gone forever—an irrevocable crime, that shot."
>
> —BOBBY JONES, ON HIS ANGER AND OUTBURSTS ON THE GOLF COURSE

Equipment manufacturers might want to avert their eyes from the forthcoming paragraphs. This is a story of exorcism, excoriation and execution, and it might be too gruesome to bear.

As Jones so eloquently explained, there is an irresistible dynamic to the game of golf that provokes its practitioners into paroxysms of pique and petulance. Even the most skilled, most levelheaded player can fail to quell the festering frustration and anger percolating inside. The result is an eruption of emotion accompanied by a need for a temporal release. And because there is an implement readily available to help alleviate the growing stress—an implement, mind you, that shares the blame for the poor outcome, if it is not out and out responsible for it—it's a safe bet that a golf club is going to suffer some kind of untimely demise.

Let's face it: Killing a golf club is a predictable response when a golfer finds disfavor with the "irrevocable crime" of a poor stroke. The tradition of altering a club's configuration likely dates to only a few minutes after the first club was invented.

Long before Rory McIlroy drowned his 3-iron for all to see this year at Trump Doral with a perfect helicopter-style launch that would have made the late Tommy Bolt smile, golfers have found amelioration for their bereavement through equipment eradication.

Jones was a serial abuser in his younger years. Gentle Gene Sarazen had his moments. Bolt, nicknamed Terrible Tommy, remains the all-time poster boy for tempestuousness and an unrepentant, unrestrained appetite for destruction. The game has been populated by scores of players whose skills were only slightly superior to their scalding on-course temperaments.

"Eventually the game is going to get to you. The game is going to beat you to death because it's so hard. I think it's a natural reaction to beat something in response," says Paul Goydos, who once fired a 59 in a PGA Tour event but has fired his clubs on countless occasions, sometimes quite imaginatively. "If you don't feel like taking out your anger on a club from time to time, you're probably not doing it right."

"Guys snap," says 1993 PGA champion Paul Azinger, who had a standing $100 bet every year with Mark Calcavecchia on which man would break a club first. "Anybody who plays golf knows: Guys are hard on themselves," Azinger says. "But it's usually a quick burst, and it's over."

Did the bet ever survive into the Florida Swing? "No, I don't believe so," Zinger says with a laugh.

"Destroying a club is almost healthy sometimes," says Ben Curtis, the 2003 British Open champion, who has been in and out of love with golf since he was 3 years old. "I honestly think that's what's missing for me now. Before I had kids, I had a release. I don't want my kids—or any other kids—to see me behave that way, throwing a club or what have you, so I've stopped. But I think that's why I haven't played as well recently. You have to have a release. You play with fire out there, and a little bit of a release keeps the fire under control."

As Jones said, "Some emotions cannot be endured with a golf club in your hands." He routinely threw clubs, including a famous display at Brae Burn Country Club in 1917 when, after shanking a shot, he began throwing clubs and balls in all directions as the crowd gasped. Sports writer Grantland Rice once said the young Jones had "the face of an angel and the temper of a timberwolf."

Jones' most famous outburst occurred at the Old Course at St. Andrews during the 1921 Open Championship, when he stomped off the par-3 11th hole and tore up his scorecard upon failing after four tries to extricate his ball from the Hill bunker. That year he was guilty of another lapse when he threw a club at the U.S. Open that struck a female spectator in the leg. USGA president Howard F. Whitney reportedly delivered a severe rebuke to the 19-year-old Jones.

The serene, soft-spoken Sarazen once admitted "a bad shot was something to drive me into a tantrum, with the result that my reputation for club-throwing somewhat exceeded my prestige as a golfer." But Sarazen had imagination, too. After one particularly perplexing round of wayward short putts, he placed the defective putter into a vise and sawed it into three sections. The sin of it was that the club belonged to a club member.

Possessing an acute disposition for rage, Bolt, the 1958 U.S. Open champion, so filled the air with flying shafts that the PGA of America instituted the so-called "Tommy Bolt Rule" in 1957, which established fines for thrown implements. The day after the rule went into effect, Bolt flung a putter skyward. Reportedly, he wanted to be the first man fined under "his" rule.

### THE COST OF CRIME

Today, such open fits of frustration like McIlroy's are considered conduct unbecoming and costs the offending tour pro an "intermediate-level" fine, around $2,000 to $10,000. John Daly made a 10 on the par-3 seventh hole during this year's PGA at Whistling Straits and tossed his 6-iron into Lake Michigan. "I should have thrown the 4-iron—that was the club that got me in trouble first," Daly said. Reminded that McIlroy threw a club into the water at Doral, Daly replied, "I've got him beat by about 180."

Jeff Sluman, the 1988 PGA champion, is about as even-keeled as anyone in the game. "Usually, we all are pretty much the same. We don't get that mad. When a club stops working, we usually just put it away. We bench it," Sluman says. "But," he adds, "sometimes a club just has to die."

The golf world witnessed a public execution when McIlroy's synapses snapped and he flew his 3-iron into the lake adjacent to the eighth hole at Doral's Blue Course after hooking his approach into the water.

A chastened McIlroy was of two minds about it later, admitting it wasn't "one of my proudest moments." But in the same breath he said it "felt good at the time. I don't feel good about it now. It's frustrating when you feel your game is close and you keep hitting shots like that in the water, things I rarely do."

Justin Rose could only laugh. Several years earlier he'd done the same thing at Doral, on the same hole. "But I flung it so far that it nearly reached the other side. It was sort of half-submerged in the bank," Rose recalls. "So we come to the [par-5] 10th hole, and I've got a perfect 3-wood distance to the green. I send Fulchy [caddie Mark Fulcher] 50 yards across the fairway, and he wades in and gets it back. I hit the middle of the green. Obviously, it had learned its lesson."

While playing with friends at Whisper Rock in Scottsdale, two-time U.S. Open champion Andy North was testing a new driver. But after a series of poor tee shots, including a snap-hook at 18, North marched off the front of the teeing ground, laid his driver on the stone facing, picked up a large rock, and pulverized the clubhead.

He had calmed down by the time he sat down for lunch, but his friends helped him relive the moment. "I ordered a chef salad," North recalls. "When the waiter took the top off the plate, there were shards of the driver head sprinkled over the top of the salad."

Ryan Moore lost it at Oakland Hills in the 2008 PGA, and it cost him his favorite club, a 3-wood. He flung it against the canvas-covered fence along the perimeter of the golf course and watched in horror as it broke into three pieces. "I loved that club," he says. "I don't know what I was thinking."

Well, because golf.

Even nice guys 86 a few. And without shooting 86.

At the 2006 Memorial Tournament, Curtis, a native of nearby Ostrander, Ohio, who as a kid dreamed of competing at Muirfield Village, executed a 14-club throw-down in the ninth fairway after rinsing his approach short of the green. "I took the whole bag and chucked it," he says. "Problem was, I still made the cut. Had to make sure they were all OK."

Steve Stricker went full Judge Smails on the 11th tee at Doral—what *is* it about Doral, guys?—and flung his driver high into the trees after a poor poke. His wife, Nicki, was on the bag. She said nothing. Steve finally broke the silence. "Don't get that," were his only instructions.

Rocco Mediate was so frustrated by his putting at The International in 2000 after hitting 32 greens in regulation and missing the cut that he ground his putter into the cartpath with his metal spikes. "I smashed it. And then I thought, *Why did I do that? I like that putter*. It was a beautiful Scotty Cameron Big Sur. So the next week at the Buick, I have to put the backup in play, and I made everything for four rounds and won."

Similarly, Kenny Perry recalls with remarkable clarity succumbing to an outburst at the 1994 New England Classic. On the range well past dinnertime, Perry became so enraged at his seeming incompetence that he picked up his golf bag, raised it over his head, and slammed it on the ground. No clubs were broken—thank goodness for metal shafts—but the strap was toast.

"Oh, yeah, I lost it," Perry says. "I didn't even care. I dragged the bag back to the clubhouse by that broken strap and just flung it into the bag room. Then I came out Thursday morning, took a few swings, made one that felt perfect, and I thought, *That's it!* I ended up turning that into four great rounds and winning the golf tournament. Ever since then I always say, you're never as far away as you think you are."

Or never far away from rough rage.

"This was a while ago when I was playing in Europe, and I had a very frustrating six to eight weeks, so I went home to Australia to unwind," says 2006 U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy. "I went out to play at Victoria Golf Club with a few friends for like $5. And I bogeyed the last three holes to lose that $5. I took one of my clubs and just started beating my bag with it. I bet I hit it 100 times. I broke six or seven clubs just hacking at this stand bag. Then I started pulling them out to see which ones were still intact. It was a complete flip-out. I bet it would have been fun to watch."

**'IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE TAKING OUT YOUR ANGER ON A CLUB FROM TIME TO TIME, YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT DOING IT RIGHT.'**

—PAUL GOYDOS

### IT WASN'T THE CADILLAC'S FAULT

Sometimes, there is collateral damage to report.

Long before Elin Woods underclubbed going for an SUV with a 9-iron, there was Rocky Thompson. After a Monday qualifier for the New Orleans Open, Thompson climbed atop the hood of his Cadillac, still wearing his metal spikes, and proceeded to remodel it with a 7-iron. "We're all sitting there on the trunks of our cars waiting for the results," says Gary McCord, who witnessed the carnage. "Next thing you know you hear this



God-awful sound, and there's Rocky flailing away. It was great entertainment."

David Feherty admits to running over his clubs with his car after triple-bogeying the final hole to lose the 1981 Irish National PGA Championship. "I drove over them lengthwise so that I got all of them from grip to clubhead," he says. "Unfortunately, I left my watch in there."

Speaking of Tiger, he has tossed clubs in disgust here and there, but at the 2012 Masters he employed a dropkick to his 9-iron after a poor tee shot at the par-3 16th hole. It would be a 9-iron, right?

Perhaps the most common form of golf-club execution is known as the "Bo Jackson." For a how-to on snapping a club over your knee, please refer to Kevin Costner's performance in the film "Tin Cup." McCord, who appeared in the movie and served as a technical consultant, coached him on the proper technique.

A recitation of various Bo Jacksons would require a listing of phone-book-size proportions. However, we must single out Dustin Johnson's effort after the 2011 Open Championship at Royal St. George's. No one witnessed the moment when Johnson turned his traitorous 2-iron into two irons, but the club had it coming. Its betrayal was unforgivable after steering Johnson's second shot out-of-bounds on the par-5 14th hole, ending his bid to catch Darren Clarke.

"That was the only time I had ever broken a club," Johnson says. "I just left it there in the trash can. I never wanted to see that club again."

(There was no report on what happened to Johnson's putter after this year's U.S. Open, but we fear the worst.)

PGA Tour rules official Slugger White, a former tour player, has seen his share of throws, slams and breakages. He was even guilty of one at the 1976 Canadian Open when he tried to turn his 7-iron into a sledgehammer on a cartpath. One of his favorite stories happened long ago at a mini-tour event when Frank Conner broke all 14 clubs over his knee in the parking lot. "No one got out alive," White says with relish.

## WHY PUTTERS NEED PROTECTION

Which brings us to putters, the most cherished and reviled club. Some players change putters as often as they change zip codes. Sometimes, a player needs a quick separation, which means locker-room attendants or a lucky member of the gallery might receive a surprise gift. But on many occasions a putter has to be tortured in a manner commensurate with the pain it has inflicted. And let's be honest: Putters are guilty until proven innocent.

"Putters take the brunt of our frustrations, for good reason," Goydos says.

Woody Austin performed one of the most famous exhibitions of putter abuse caught on camera in 1997 at Harbour Town. He repeatedly head-butted the shaft while exiting the 14th green. "What people don't understand is that I wasn't trying to abuse the putter, I was trying to abuse myself," Austin says before going on a Paul Harvey rest-of-the-story tangent. "What no one knows about that day is that I was playing with Tom Watson, and on the sixth hole he absolutely tomahawked one into the ground, and his caddie is fighting to get it out, and I think he even had to use another club to dig it out. I mean, like I said, it happens to all of us, even the best of us."

During the 1987 Ryder Cup at Muirfield Village, Ben Crenshaw banged his putter, Little Ben, on the ground as he exited the sixth green during his match against Eamonn Darcy. Crenshaw blamed rust in the shaft, but disgust abetted the immolation. Using his 1-iron and sand wedge the rest of the way, Crenshaw lost to Darcy, 1 up, as Europe won 15-13 for its first triumph on U.S. soil.

**DAVID FEHERTY ONCE RAN OVER HIS CLUBS WITH HIS CAR. 'I DROVE OVER THEM LENGTHWISE SO THAT I GOT ALL OF THEM FROM GRIP TO CLUBHEAD. UNFORTUNATELY, I LEFT MY WATCH IN THERE.'**

Drownings, not surprisingly, are the surest and most convenient method of disposal. "I wish I had a dollar for every putter that I've seen thrown into a water hazard," Skip Kendall says.

Charley Hoffman pitched his in the water at TPC Sawgrass in 2008 after missing a tap-in on the 13th hole. Azinger flung one in the water at the Honda Classic on the seventh hole at TPC Heron Bay, and on the ninth he found a kid holding it. "I signed it for him and told him, 'I hope you have more luck than I did.' "

Mediate has been a party to countless burials at sea, including one conducted during the 2007 Fry's.com Open in Las Vegas, when he exhorted his caddie, Martin Courtois, to pitch it into the lake at the 12th hole at TPC Summerlin. "We're waiting for Scott Verplank to putt out, and I said it to Martin twice: 'Throw the effing putter into the effing lake.' But I'm thinking he's not going to do it. All of a sudden I see this thing out of the corner of my eye. He whirlybirded it in. I'm like, 'Did you really throw that in the water?' He thinks I'm going to fire him. Why would I fire him? He did what I said."

One tour veteran, who requested anonymity, simply drowned the head of his putter in his hotel-room toilet bowl overnight. This, of course, after he had deposited his daily constitutional.

Though many choose water, Ernie Els opted for fire. "I burned one," he admitted sheepishly after turning it into a glorified marshmallow stick. "I stuck it in there, and then I used it to move the embers around. The head melted off, and I just let it roast."

Andrew Magee can beat Els' flameout, having ignited several dozen putters in a bonfire behind the home of his good friend and neighbor, McCord. Though they belonged to McCord, Gary didn't object. He and Magee and a host of other tour players toasted the roasting. "That was after an entire year of bad putting, and he wanted to do a complete purge so that I would start over with something new," says McCord, who cops a plea of guilty about his sordid past.

"I did a Ky Laffoon once," he says.

What's a Ky Laffoon?

"That's where you tie a putter to your back bumper and drag that thing on the road."

Goydos steps forward for a similar transgression. "It was already bent a little bit, somehow," Goydos says with a grin. "I attached my putter to the back bumper at a mini-tour event, the Golden State Tour, and I dragged it around the parking lot and drove it down the service road. Then I pitched it into the bushes. It added a bit of loft to it by the time I was done with it; turned it into a chipper."

A few weeks later, Goydos watched one of his playing partners chuck a Spalding 8802 into a tree after three-putting a par 5. The club got stuck, so the player, whom Goydos would not name, tried to free it by throwing his 9-iron at it. Very soon the player had four clubs hanging from the tree. The group was playing out of carts, so Goydos joined up with John Flannery, the third member of the group, to finish the final four holes. "As we were leaving," Goydos says, "I turned around, and the guy was now ramming the cart into the tree."

Calcavecchia, however, is the king of the Ky Laffoon platoon. After the final round of the 2006 Mercedes Championships at Kapalua, the 1989 British Open champion decided that seven three-putts warranted action. Speeding down the steep hill from the course to his hotel, Calcavecchia opened his car door, plunged the putter out and dragged it along the pavement at 50 miles per hour. "I made sure I hit the reflectors in the middle of the road, too, for extra punishment," he says, "but that was stupid, because then I hurt my wrist."

But he wasn't done. He pulled off to the side of the road and started throwing the club against a brick wall. "People thought I was going berserk. And I was," he says, laughing at the memory. "But that's the game for you."

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That list of "Who's Who" starts with Torrey Pines Golf Course, the crown jewel of San Diego golf. This municipal facility is the regular home of the PGA Tour's Farmers Insurance Open, and it's set to host its second U.S. Open in 2021. With two 18-hole layouts (the North Course and the South Course) set high on bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean, Torrey Pines delivers a roller coaster of championship golf. The adjacent Lodge at Torrey Pines, an award-winning AAA Five-Diamond retreat, offers several dining options, including its A.R. Valentien restaurant featuring signature farm-to-table fare.

The Rancho Bernardo Inn is a luxurious resort nestled into the sun-drenched hills of North County inland. It features 18 scenic holes of golf and exudes elegance. The resort is also blessed with a full-service spa and several noteworthy dining options, including Avant, which draws on the pride of the San Diego wine country with over 3,600 wine selections.

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# SWING DOCS

## 2015 / 2016

## The 50 Best Teachers in America and 476 more, ranked state-by-state and selected by their peers

If our teacher survey were the Ryder Cup, they'd be adding all of Europe to the Great Britain & Ireland team (like they did in 1979) to try to make it competitive. That's how tough it is to unseat Butch Harmon.

Harmon dominated the voting for the eighth time in nine surveys since 2000. This year he finished with almost twice the votes (a combination of raw votes and top-10 ratings) of No. 2-ranked Chuck Cook. Harmon didn't coast after his record winning margin on the 2013-'14 survey. His students won more than a dozen events worldwide in the past two years, including Phil Mickelson at the 2013 British Open and Rickie Fowler at the Players Championship earlier this year.

Acclaimed teachers Jim McLean, David Leadbetter, Mike Bender, Mike Adams, Jim Hardy, Martin Hall, Todd Anderson and Hank Haney fill out the top 10. Jordan Spieth's rise didn't go unnoticed by the voting panel of more than 1,100 teachers nationwide. Cameron McCormick, Spieth's coach, made the highest debut at No. 17. He's joined by newcomers James Sieckmann, Chris Como, James Leitz and Joe Hallett. This list is the first since 2001 without Ben Doyle, the famous California teacher who passed away last December.

For more on the 50 Best Teachers, including some quick tips, and the Best Teachers in Your State, turn the page.

**The King of Swing**
**No. 1 again, Butch Harmon has never been more popular.**

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Photograph by Joe Pugliese


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## BUTCH HARMON

**HENDERSON, NEV.**
Teaches Rickie Fowler, Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Jimmy Walker, Brandt Snedeker

**BEAT THE ROUGH WITH A STEEPER DOWNSWING**

**1** To hit good shots out of the rough, you need speed on both sides of the ball. By that I mean clubhead speed as you swing into impact and ball speed coming out of the grass. The first part comes from catching as little grass as possible before impact, and the second from jumping the ball out of the rough with some loft.

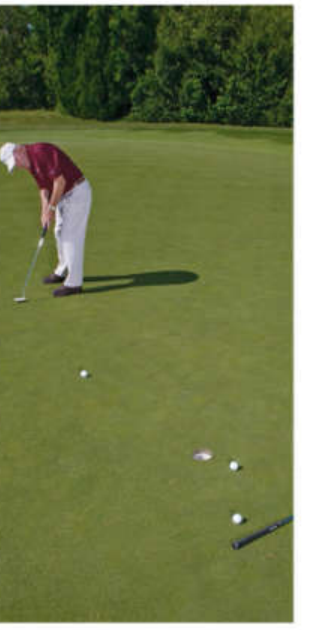
Open the clubface slightly to help prevent the grass from shutting the face before impact. That will set up a little fade, so aim your body more to the left. Then set more weight on your front foot, swing back and pull the butt of the club down toward the ball (*above*). That pulling action will create a steeper angle into impact, so you'll catch the ball cleaner. The more speed and loft you have at impact, the better your chances of getting out of the heavy stuff.

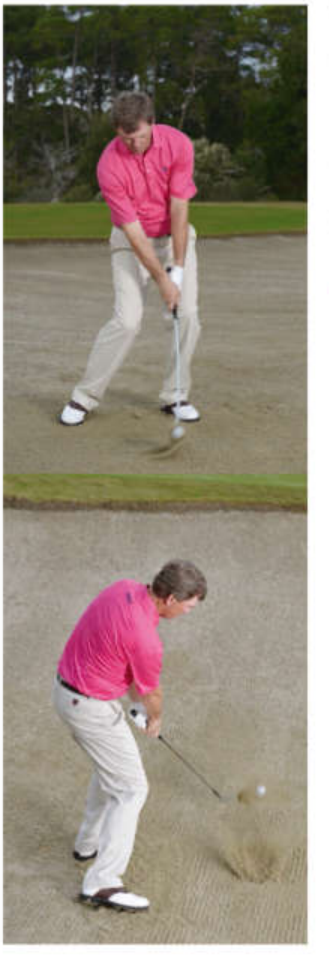
## CHUCK COOK

**AUSTIN**
Teaches Jason Dufner

**SET UP A BACKBOARD TO LEARN SPEED CONTROL**

**2** Golfers spend so much time on the greens reading break, but pace is more important to good putting. Get in the habit of hitting your putts with enough speed that they always reach the hole. Here's a drill that will help you develop your distance control: Lay a club down on the practice green about two feet past a hole and then practice hitting putts, starting at about 10 feet (*right*). Sinking the putt is ideal, but if you miss, where the ball stops is important, too. You want to work on your speed so the ball stops past the hole but doesn't bump into the club. That way, you'll have a much easier time making second putts on the course. As you go through this drill, gradually move back to 15, 20 and 25 feet. Hit several putts from each distance, and keep track of how many you leave between the cup and the club. Remember, knocking them in is pretty good, too.





## TODD ANDERSON

**ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA.**
Teaches Billy Horschel, Nick Watney, Justin Leonard

**MAKE A 60-YARD SWING FOR A STANDARD BLAST**

**9** One thing a lot of amateurs struggle with on greenside bunker shots is swinging hard enough. They usually decel through the sand, which tends to close the clubface and cause it to dig. A good thought is to accelerate the club on the downswing with your right arm, trying to make the shaft catch up with your left arm (*left, top*). Then it's a matter of keeping the face open so you feel like you're spanking the sand with the back of the clubhead. That'll help the club slide through the sand and push the ball up and out (*left, bottom*).

As far as how big a bunker swing should be, think of it as a 3-to-1 ratio compared with a wedge shot from the fairway. In other words, you need a swing that would hit the ball 60 yards from the fairway to produce a 20-yard bunker shot (2-to-1 if the sand is firm).

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11

A fast start down won't do you any good. —MICHAEL BREED



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## MICHAEL BREED

**NEW YORK CITY**
Host of "The Golf Fix" on Golf Channel

### GET THE FAST POINT OUT IN FRONT OF YOU

13 Let me give you an image for creating speed with the driver. Picture you have a cup of coffee in your car and you're merging onto a highway. Are you going to gun it from a dead stop? No way. By accelerating gradually you can reach the speed you need and avoid a nasty spill.

Same with the golf swing: You want to build momentum as you go so you can achieve maximum speed through impact. A quick move off the ball or a fast start down won't do you any good. Feel like you take your time swinging to the top, then make a smooth transition into the downswing, accelerating through the ball. Take some practice swings, and try to get the *whoosh* of the clubhead to come on the front side of the swing, after the impact area. Do that in your real swing, and you'll pound your tee shots.

"Are you better calm or with your heart rate up?" —PIA NILSSON



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## ▸ PIA NILSSON

**SCOTTSDALE**
Teaches Kevin Streelman, Ai Miyazato, Na Yeon Choi

### PACE YOUR ROUTINE AT THE RIGHT SPEED

16 You've probably heard about how important it is to have a physical and mental routine before you play every shot. It is! One important piece to building that routine is understanding what speed—in both preparing and playing—works best for you. There's no right or wrong answer here. Great players over the years have succeeded with a variety of approaches.

Ask yourself if your best results come when you walk calmly into the shot and take a long exhale before you set up. Or are you better with more energy in your body, which means taking peppy steps into the shot and getting your heart rate up? Be clear on which approach works better for you by playing rounds where you try each kind.



## ▲ CAMERON McCORMICK

**DALLAS**

Teaches Jordan Spieth

### ADD SWING SPEED BY DEVELOPING LAG

**17** Maybe you have to hit a recovery shot under a branch. Or you want to flight an iron low into a headwind. In either case, you need speed to make the ball travel a far distance with little height. On all solid iron strikes, but even more so with this punch shot, the clubhead must trail the handle at impact so the clubface is delofted. The secret to this skill, called lag, is in the transition from backswing to downswing.

Here you should feel what I call "breakback," or the handle shifting forward as the downswing begins. That might sound complicated, but it's really easy if you practice in slow-motion. Here's how: (1) Swing the club back and pause at the top of the backswing; (2) hinge your wrists aggressively (*above*) so the clubhead drops toward your back shoulder; (3) swing down, focusing on striking the ball before the turf. Increase the speed until this transition feels like one fluid motion.

## ▸ JAMES SIECKMANN

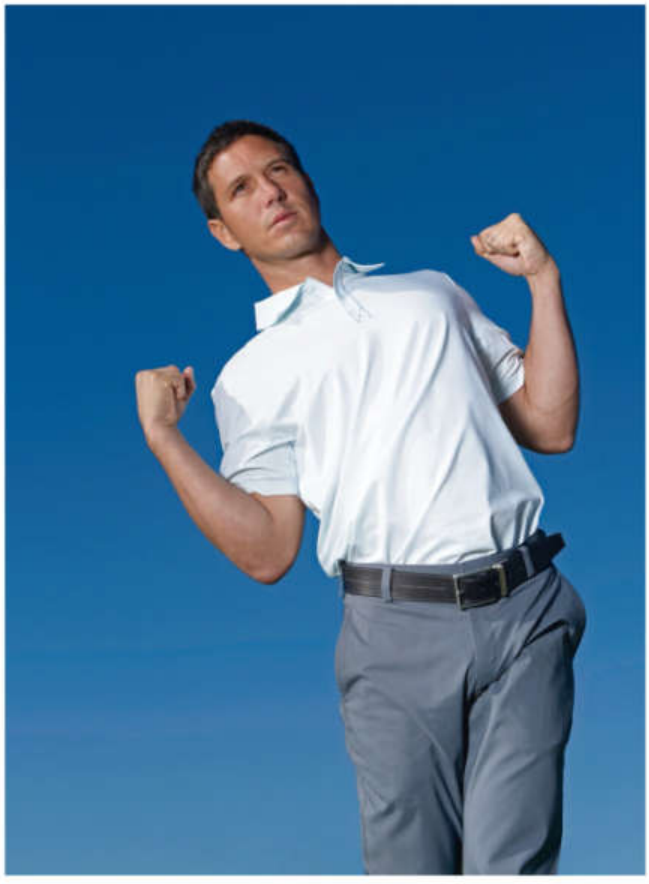
**OMAHA**

Teaches Charley Hoffman, Ben Crane, I.K. Kim, Charlie Wi, Kevin Chappell

### PITCH IT ON WITH A SPLASH THROUGH THE GRASS

**29** When you're playing a pitch shot from deep grass, the amount of raw clubhead speed you produce isn't as important as where in the swing you make that speed. Get into a stable, open stance with your feet about shoulder-width apart. Open the clubface, and play the ball forward of center. Start with your weight shifted onto your lead leg, and leave it there. Then make a long, slow backswing, and transition smoothly into the downswing so you feel a slight "throw" of the clubhead down through the grass (*right*). Make sure maximum clubhead speed happens after impact. If you create speed too early, you'll tend to chop into the grass with the leading edge and get stuck.





## ◂ CHRIS COMO

**PLANO, TEXAS**

Teaches Tiger Woods, Trevor Immelman, Richard Lee, Jamie Lovemark

### PUSH OUT YOUR CHEST TO AVOID A POWER LOSS

**35** Many recreational golfers lose clubhead speed because they don't know how to use the body correctly. One of the most common faults I see is collapsing the upper body at the start of the downswing. This usually creates a steep angle coming down, and the body rotation will tend to stop before impact, which reduces clubhead speed.

Make some practice motions without a club and expand your chest and stomach muscles as you start the downswing, as if you were Clark Kent tearing your shirt open to change into Superman (*left*). Keep that feeling as you turn through to your finish, and you'll get much better rotation through the shot and stronger impact.

MCCORMICK: UNDER ARMOUR SHIRT, $90; TITLEIST GLOVE, $24 • SIECKMANN: FOOTJOY SHIRT • COMO: NIKE SHIRT, PANTS, BELT

Photographs by J.D. Cuban, Dom Furore and Chris Stanford

# 50 BEST TEACHERS IN AMERICA 2015 / 2016

| | NAME (2014 RANK) | VOTES | LESSON RATE | FACILITY | CITY/STATE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | BUTCH HARMON (1) | 1,653 | $1,000/HOUR | Butch Harmon School of Golf (Rio Secco G.C.) | HENDERSON, NEV. |
| 2 | CHUCK COOK (6) | 850 | $300/HOUR | Chuck Cook Golf Academy | AUSTIN |
| 3 | JIM McLEAN (3) | 849 | $750/HOUR | Jim McLean Golf School at Trump National Doral | MIAMI |
| 4 | DAVID LEADBETTER (5) | 810 | $3,500/3 HOURS | David Leadbetter Golf Academy at ChampionsGate | ORLANDO |
| 5 | MIKE BENDER (4) | 747 | $300/HOUR | Mike Bender Golf Academy (Magnolia Plantation G.C.) | LAKE MARY, FLA. |
| 6 | MIKE ADAMS (9) | 675 | $325/HOUR | Hamilton Farm G.C. | GLADSTONE, N.J. |
| 7 | JIM HARDY (7) | 596 | $5,000/DAY | Plane Truth Golf | HOUSTON |
| 8 | MARTIN HALL (10) | 548 | $200/HOUR | Ibis G. & C.C. | WEST PALM BEACH |
| 9 | TODD ANDERSON (8) | 533 | $375/HOUR | Sea Island G.C. | ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA. |
| 10 | HANK HANEY (11) | 531 | $15,000/DAY | Hank Haney Golf | LEWISVILLE, TEXAS |
| 11 | SEAN FOLEY (2) | 478 | $500/HOUR | Core Golf Academy (Orange County National) | WINTER GARDEN, FLA. |
| 12 | BOB TOSKI (12) | 455 | $250/HOUR | Toski-Battersby Golf Learning Center | COCONUT CREEK, FLA. |
| 13 | MICHAEL BREED (13) | 449 | $500/HOUR | Michael Breed Golf Academy (Trump G. Links at Ferry Point) | NEW YORK CITY |
| 14 | STAN UTLEY (14) | 417 | $500/HOUR | Grayhawk G.C. | SCOTTSDALE |
| 15 | DAVE STOCKTON (16) | 416 | $600/HOUR | Stockton Golf | REDLANDS, CALIF. |
| 16 | PIA NILSSON (17) | 390 | $350/HOUR | Vision 54 (Talking Stick G.C.) | SCOTTSDALE |
| ▶ 17 | CAMERON McCORMICK | 379 | $250/HOUR | Brook Hollow G.C. | DALLAS |
| 18 | MIKE MALASKA (15) | 365 | $300/HOUR | Malaska Golf | MESA, ARIZ. |
| 19 | JIM SUTTIE (18) | 351 | $190/HOUR | Conway Farms G.C. | LAKE FOREST, ILL. |
| 20 | DAVE PELZ (24) | 348 | $20,000/DAY | Dave Pelz Scoring Game Schools | AUSTIN |
| 21 | MANUEL DE LA TORRE (21) | 335 | $80/HOUR | Milwaukee C.C. | RIVER HILLS, WIS. |
| 22 | CLAUDE HARMON III (34) | 325 | $700/90 MINUTES | Butch Harmon Floridian | PALM CITY, FLA. |
| 23 | CRAIG HARMON (23) | 320 | $150/HOUR | McArthur G.C. | HOBE SOUND, FLA. |
| 24 | CRAIG SHANKLAND (22) | 301 | $200/HOUR | LPGA International | DAYTONA BEACH |
| T-25 | MICHAEL HEBRON (T-28) | 298 | $150/HOUR | Smithtown Landing C.C. | SMITHTOWN LANDING, N.Y. |
| T-25 | LYNN MARRIOTT (25) | 298 | $350/HOUR | Vision 54 (Talking Stick G.C.) | SCOTTSDALE |
| 27 | MAC O'GRADY (19) | 285 | N/A | Mac O'Grady Golf School | PALM SPRINGS, CALIF. |
| 28 | RANDY SMITH (27) | 284 | $175/HOUR | Royal Oaks C.C. | DALLAS |
| ▶ 29 | JAMES SIECKMANN | 282 | $175/HOUR | Golf Academy at Shadow Ridge C.C. | OMAHA |
| T-30 | JIMMY BALLARD (T-28) | 273 | $1,250/4 HOURS | Ballard Swing Connection (Ocean Reef C.) | KEY LARGO, FLA. |
| T-30 | RICK SMITH (20) | 273 | $250/HOUR | Rick Smith Golf Academy (Treetops Resort) | GAYLORD, MICH. |
| 32 | GARY WIREN (26) | 268 | $400/HOUR | Trump International G.C. | WEST PALM BEACH |
| 33 | PETER KOSTIS (31) | 245 | $500/HOUR | Grayhawk Learning Center (Grayhawk G.C.) | SCOTTSDALE |
| 34 | JACK LUMPKIN (30) | 241 | $375/HOUR | Sea Island G.C. | ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA. |
| ▶ 35 | CHRIS COMO | 239 | $1,500/HALF DAY | Gleneagles C.C. | PLANO, TEXAS |
| 36 | DAVE PHILLIPS (33) | 225 | $795/3 HOURS | TPI | OCEANSIDE, CALIF. |
| 37 | BRIAN MANZELLA (40) | 206 | $180/HOUR | Brian Manzella Golf Academy at English Turn G. & C.C. | NEW ORLEANS |
| 38 | MIKE McGETRICK (38) | 200 | $250/HOUR | McGetrick Golf Academy (G.C. of Houston) | HUMBLE, TEXAS |
| 39 | DARRELL KESTNER (43) | 199 | $500/90 MINUTES | Deepdale G.C. | MANHASSET, N.Y. |
| ▶ 40 | JAMES LEITZ | 197 | $150/HOUR | Tchefuncta C.C. | COVINGTON, LA. |
| 41 | MIKE LABAUVE (35) | 195 | $275/HOUR | Westin Kierland Resort & Spa | SCOTTSDALE |
| 42 | BRIAN MOGG (36) | 193 | $225/HOUR | Brian Mogg Golf Academy (Waldorf Astoria G.C.) | ORLANDO |
| 43 | ANDY PLUMMER (39) | 182 | $300/HOUR | Stack & Tilt Academy | MOUNT HOLLY, N.J. |
| ▶ 44 | JOE HALLETT | 172 | $150/HOUR | Vanderbilt Legends C. | FRANKLIN, TENN. |
| 45 | MIKE SHANNON (37) | 171 | $275/HOUR | Sea Island G.C. | ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA. |
| 46 | PHIL RODGERS (49) | 167 | $300/HOUR | The Grand G.C. | SAN DIEGO |
| 47 | GARY GILCHRIST (32) | 162 | $225/HOUR | Gary Gilchrist Golf Academy (Mission Inn Resort & C.) | HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLA. |
| 48 | KEVIN WEEKS (45) | 157 | $170/HOUR | Cog Hill G. & C.C. | LEMONT, ILL. |
| 49 | SUZY WHALEY (48) | 154 | $150/HOUR | TPC River Highlands | CROMWELL, CONN. |
| T-50 | MIKE BENNETT (T-41) | 150 | $300/HOUR | Stack & Tilt Academy | MOUNT HOLLY, N.J. |
| T-50 | TODD SONES (44) | 150 | $200/45 MINUTES | Todd Sones Impact Golf (White Deer Run G.C.) | VERNON HILLS, ILL. |

▶ NEW TO THE RANKING

# THE BEST TEACHERS IN YOUR STATE

As ranked by their peers

**2015 / 2016**

## ALABAMA

**1 MARK BLACKBURN**
Greystone G. & C.C., Birmingham

**2 TONY RUGGIERO**
C.C. of Mobile

**3 WAYNE FLINT**
Highland Park G. Cse., Birmingham

**4 ERIC ESHLEMAN**
C.C. of Birmingham

**5 NEIL THOMPSON**
Oxmoor Valley, Birmingham

**6 LAYNE SAVOIE**
FarmLinks at Pursell Farms, Sylacauga

**7 BRIAN SPEAKMAN**
Greystone G. & C.C., Birmingham

## ALASKA

**1 JOE BUTLER**
Palmer G. Cse.

## ARIZONA

**1 STAN UTLEY (14)**
Grayhawk G.C., Scottsdale

**2 PIA NILSSON (16)**
Vision 54, Scottsdale

**3 MIKE MALASKA (18)**
Malaska G., Mesa

**4 LYNN MARRIOTT (T-25)**
Vision 54, Scottsdale

**5 PETER KOSTIS (33)**
Grayhawk Learning Ctr., Scottsdale

**6 MIKE LABAUVE (41)**
Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale

**7 DONALD CRAWLEY**
Boulders G. Academy, Carefree

**8 CRAIG BUNKER**
Camelback G.C., Scottsdale

**9 SCOTT BUNKER**
Red Mountain Ranch C.C., Mesa

**10 MARTIN CHUCK**
Raven G.C., Phoenix

**11 SANDY LABAUVE**
Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale

**12 JOHN STAHLSCHMIDT**
Tour Academy TPC Scottsdale

**13 TIM MAHONEY**
Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale

**14 STEVE DAHLBY**
Forest Highlands G.C., Flagstaff

**15 PAUL TRITTLER**
Grayhawk G.C., Scottsdale

**16 SCOTT SACKETT**
McCormick Ranch G.C., Scottsdale

**17 CRAIG HOCKNULL**
Outback G. Academy, Gilbert

**18 MARK WINKLEY**
The Estancia C., Scottsdale

**19 ANDREW GETSON**
Grayhawk G.C., Scottsdale

**20 MATT TRIMBLE**
ASU Karsten G. Cse., Tempe

**21 ANDY PATNOU**
Tour Academy TPC Scottsdale

## ARKANSAS

**1 DAN SNIDER**
Alotian C., Little Rock

**2 BRANNON WATSON**
Arkansas G. Ctr., Conway

**3 JON ZIESKE**
Alotian C., Little Rock

## CALIFORNIA

**1 DAVE STOCKTON (15)**
Stockton G., Redlands

**2 MAC O'GRADY (27)**
Mac O'Grady G. School, Palm Springs

**3 DAVE PHILLIPS (36)**
TPI, Oceanside

**4 PHIL RODGERS (46)**
The Grand G.C., San Diego

**5 LAIRD SMALL**
Pebble Beach G. Academy

**6 TOM STICKNEY II**
Bighorn G.C., Palm Desert

**7 JEFF RITTER**
MTT Performance, Pebble Beach

**8 KIP PUTERBAUGH**
Aviara G. Academy, Carlsbad

**9 JOSH ZANDER**
Stanford University G. Cse., Palo Alto

**10 DEAN REINMUTH**
Dean Reinmuth School of G., San Diego

**11 JAMIE MULLIGAN**
Virginia C.C., Long Beach

**12 DREW STECKEL**
Drew Steckel G., Los Angeles

**13 CHRIS WALKEY**
The Palms G.C., La Quinta

**14 BILL HARMON**
Toscana C.C., Indian Wells

**15 BRADY RIGGS**
Woodley Lakes G.C., Van Nuys

**16 FRED SHOEMAKER**
Extraordinary G., Carmel

**17 GREGG MCHATTON**
Vista Valencia G. Cse., Valencia

**18 GRANT HALVERSON**
Aviara G. Academy, Carlsbad

**19 DAVID WRIGHT**
Wright Balance G., Mission Viejo

**20 KATHERINE MARREN**
Quail Lodge & G.C., Carmel

**21 BRYAN LEBEDEVITCH**
PGA West G. Academy, La Quinta

**22 JOSH MYERS**
PGA West G. Academy, La Quinta

**23 CARL WELTY**
The Grand G.C., San Diego

**24 EDDIE MERRINS**
Bel-Air C.C., Los Angeles

**25 TED NORBY**
National University G. Academy, Carlsbad

**26 JOBY ROSS**
Mariners Point G. Links, Foster City

**27 BOB KNEE**
Aviara G. Academy, Carlsbad

**28 BRUCE NAKAMURA**
Aviara G. Academy, Carlsbad

**29 TOM SARGENT**
Mesa Verde C.C., Costa Mesa

**30 BOB LASKEN**
Arroyo Trabuco G.C., Mission Viejo

**31 GLENN DECK**
The Resort at Pelican Hill, Newport Beach

**32 DAVE STOCKTON JR.**
Stockton G., Redlands

**33 KEITH LYFORD**
G. Academy at Old Greenwood, Truckee

**34 DON PARSONS**
Don Parsons G. Instruction, Santa Barbara

**35 DON BROWN**
Harbor G. Practice Center, Wilmington

**36 ZACH HEUSSER**
Crystal Springs G. Cse., Burlingame

**37 KEN GREEN**
Aviara G. Academy, Carlsbad

**38 CHRIS SMEAL**
Stadium G. Ctr., San Diego

**39 JAMIE PUTERBAUGH**
Aviara G. Academy, Carlsbad

**40 TOM WISCHMEYER**
Stadium G. Center, San Diego

**41 ROGER GUNN**
Tierra Rejada G.C., Moorpark

**42 RYAN KENNEDY**
Oakmont C.C., Glendale

**43 RON STOCKTON**
Stockton G., Redlands

**44 MICK SOLI**
Mariners Point G. Links, Foster City

**45 JOHN BATTAGLIA**
PGA West G. Academy, La Quinta

**46 JASON PUTERBAUGH**
Aviara G. Academy, Carlsbad

**47 DEREK UYEDA**
The Grand G.C., San Diego

**48 BOB MADSEN**
Sycuan Resort, El Cajon

**49 JUSTIN HICKS**
Stadium G. Center, San Diego

## COLORADO

**1 TRENT WEARNER**
Trent Wearner G., Englewood

**2 DON HURTER**
Castle Pines G.C., Castle Rock

**3 TY WALKER**
GolfTec Denver

**4 MARK WOOD**
Mark Wood G. Academy at Cornerstone, Montrose

**5 DAN SNIFFIN**
Omni Interlocken G.C., Broomfield

**6 ANDY HILTS**
GolfTec Denver

**7 KEVIN CUBBAGE**
GolfTec Cherry Creek

**8 ELENA KING**
CommonGround G. Cse, Aurora

**9 STEVE ATHERTON**
Eagle Springs G.C., Wolcott

**10 ED OLDHAM**
The Ranch C.C., Westminster

**11 PATRICK NUBER**
GolfTec Denver

**12 SUSAN SANDERS**
Castle Pines G.C., Castle Rock

**13 ERIK BILLINGER**
U. of Denver

## CONNECTICUT

**1 SUZY WHALEY (49)**
TPC River Highlands, Cromwell

**2 KEN DOYLE**
Hop Meadow C.C., Simsbury

**3 TOM HENDERSON**
Round Hill C., Greenwich

**4 JOHN VITALE**
Hawk's Landing C.C., Southington

**5 KAMMY MAXFELDT**
Birchwood C.C., Westport

**6 ROB BARBEAU**
Old Lyme C.C.

**7 GEORGE CONNOR**
ConnorGolf at Farmington Woods, Avon

**8 DEREK HOOPER**
Troon G. Academy, Lake of Isles

**9 GENE MULAK**
Silver Spring C.C., Ridgefield

**10 JOHN NOWOBILSKI**
Tallwood C.C., Hebron

**11 CHET DUNLOP**
Burlington G. Center

**12 MIKE SUMMA**
Stanwich C., Greenwich

**13 RON BECK**
Fox Hopyard G.C., East Haddam

**14 DON GLIHA**
Connecticut G. Academy, Manchester

**15 DAVE PIANKI**
Tower Ridge C.C., Simsbury

## DELAWARE

**1 BOB LENNON**
Wilmington C.C.

**2 BECKY DENGLER**
Ed Oliver G.C., Wilmington

## FLORIDA

**1 JIM MCLEAN (3)**
Jim McLean G. School at Trump National Doral, Miami

**2 DAVID LEADBETTER (4)**
David Leadbetter G. Academy at ChampionsGate, Orlando

**3 MIKE BENDER (5)**
Mike Bender G. Academy, Lake Mary

**4 MARTIN HALL (8)**
Ibis G. & C.C., West Palm Beach

**5 SEAN FOLEY (11)**
Core G. Academy, Winter Garden

**6 BOB TOSKI (12)**
Toski-Battersby G. Learning Ctr., Coconut Creek

**7 CLAUDE HARMON III (22)**
Butch Harmon Floridian, Palm City

**8 CRAIG HARMON (23)**
McArthur G.C., Hobe Sound

**9 CRAIG SHANKLAND (24)**
LPGA International, Daytona Beach

**10 JIMMY BALLARD (T-30)**
Ballard Swing Connection, Key Largo

**11 GARY WIREN (32)**
Trump International G.C., West Palm Beach

**12 BRIAN MOGG (42)**
Brian Mogg G. Academy, Orlando

**13 GARY GILCHRIST (47)**
Gary Gilchrist G. Academy, Howey-in-the-Hills

**14 MARK SWEENEY**
AimPoint G., Orlando

**15 BOB FORD**
Seminole G.C., Juno Beach

**16 CHERYL ANDERSON**
Mike Bender G. Academy, Lake Mary

**17 JOHN ELLIOTT JR.**
Golden Ocala G. & Equestrian C., Ocala

**18 FRED GRIFFIN**
Grand Cypress G. Academy, Orlando

**19 BILL DAVIS**
EBC Elite Training, West Palm Beach

**20 ANNE CAIN**
Tour Academy World G. Village, St. Augustine

**21 KEVIN SMELTZ**
Bishops Gate G. Academy, Howey-in-the-Hills

**22 JORGE PARADA**
Tour Academy TPC Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra

**23 KELLIE STENZEL**
Boca Raton Resort and C.

**24 T.J. TOMASI**
Keiser U. College of G., Port St. Lucie

**25 GLEN FARNSWORTH**
Jim McLean G. School at Trump National Doral, Miami

**26 RICK MCCORD**
Rick McCord G. Academy at Orange Lake, Kissimmee

**27 BOBBY COLE**
Jim McLean G. School at Trump National Doral, Miami

**28 BOBBY CLAMPETT**
Impact Zone G., Bonita Springs

**29 MARK HACKETT**
Old Palm G.C., Palm Beach Gardens

**30 LARRY RINKER**
Ritz Carlton G.C., Orlando

**31 BRAD BREWER**
Brad Brewer G. Academy at Shingle Creek, Orlando

**32 GREGOR JAMIESON**
Lake Nona C., Orlando

**33 MITCHELL SPEARMAN**
Mitchell Spearman G., Orlando

**34 JOHN WEBSTER**
The Breakers, Palm Beach

**35 HARRY ZIMMERMAN**
Grand Cypress G. Academy, Orlando

**36 DON LAW**
Don Law G. Academy, Boca Raton

**37 WARREN BOTTKE**
Abacoa G.C., Jupiter

**38 TOM CREAVY**
MetroWest G.C., Orlando

**39 DARREN MAY**
The Bear's C., Jupiter

**40 STEVE BANN**
Saddlebrook Resort, Wesley Chapel

**41 TODD MEENA**
Grand Cypress G. Academy, Orlando

**42 LEW SMITHER III**
Cypress Run G.C., Tarpon Springs

**43 TRAVIS FULTON**
Tour Academy TPC Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra

**44 KEVIN COMPARE**
The Breakers, Palm City

**45 DALE LYNCH**
Saddlebrook Resort, Wesley Chapel

**46 CARL RABITO**
Carl Rabito G. Academy, Clermont

**47 ANDREW PARK**
Andrew Park G., Orlando

**48 DEL PONCHOCK**
Jupiter Hills C., Tequesta

**49 JOHN O'LEARY III**
Bay Hill G.C., Orlando

**50 MARK DURLAND**
Durland G. School at Naples Grande, Naples

## GEORGIA

**1 TODD ANDERSON (9)**
Sea Island G.C., St. Simons Island

**2 JACK LUMPKIN (34)**
Sea Island G.C., St. Simons Island

**3 MIKE SHANNON (45)**
Sea Island G.C., St. Simons Island

**4 SCOTT HAMILTON**
Cartersville C.C.

**5 CHARLIE KING**
Reynolds G. Academy, Greensboro

**6 JOHN TILLERY**
Lane Creek G.C., Bishop

**7 BRANDON STOOKSBURY**
Idle Hour G.C., Macon

**8 JACKIE CANNIZZO**
C.C. of Roswell

**9 BOBBY HIX**
Idle Hour G.C., Macon

**10 MIKE PERPICH**
RiverPines G.C., Johns Creek

**11 TOM NESS**
Alpharetta Athletic C.

**12 TOM LOSINGER**
BridgeMill G. Academy, Canton

**13 NICOLE WELLER**
The Landings C., Savannah

**14 CUTTS BENEDICT**
Lane Creek G.C., Bishop

**15 HANK SMITH**
Frederica G.C., St. Simons Island

**16 GALE PETERSON**
Sea Island G.C., St. Simons Island

## HAWAII

**1 KEVIN RALBOVSKY**
KMR School of G., Kaneohe

**2 BEN HONGO**
Kapalua G. Academy, Lahaina

**3 CLAUDE BROUSSEAU**
Ko Olina G.C., Kapolei

**4 GREG FIELDS**
Kapalua G. Academy, Lahaina

**5 EDDIE LEE**
David Leadbetter G. Academy, Wailea

50 BEST TEACHER NAMES IN RED

## IDAHO

1 JIM EMPEY
Quail Hollow G.C., Boise
2 TOMMY SANDERSON
The Valley C., Hailey
3 JONATHAN GIBBS
BanBury G. Cse., Eagle
4 STONEY BROWN
The Valley C., Hailey

## ILLINOIS

1 JIM SUTTIE (19)
Conway Farms G.C., Lake Forest
2 KEVIN WEEKS (48)
Cog Hill G. & C.C., Lemont
3 TODD SONES (T-50)
Todd Sones Impact G., Vernon Hills
4 PAT GOSS
Northwestern University, Evanston
5 DAN KOCHEVAR
Oak Brook G.C.
6 E.A. TISCHLER
Olympia Fields C.C.
7 DAVID IMPASTATO
Cog Hill G. & C.C., Lemont
8 LEE MILLER
Cog Hill G. & C.C., Lemont
9 CAROL RHOADES
Cog Hill G. & C.C., Lemont
10 BRUCE PATTERSON
Butler National G.C., Oak Brook
11 JEFF MORY
Conway Farms G.C., Lake Forest
12 MIKE SMALL
University of Illinois, Champaign
13 GREG BARESEL
Cantigny G., Wheaton
14 GARRETT CHAUSSARD
Chicago Highlands C., Westchester
15 DAN SHELDEN
Ruth Lake C.C., Hinsdale
16 JOE BOSCO
Glen C., Glenview
17 CONNIE DeMATTIA
Cantigny G., Wheaton
18 MICHAEL WENZEL
Northbrook G. Academy at Sportsman's C.C., Northbrook

## INDIANA

1 T.J. YEATON
The Legends G.C., Franklin
2 JOHN DAL COROBBO
Brickyard Crossing G.C., Indianapolis
3 TONY PANCAKE
Crooked Stick G.C., Carmel
4 RICK HEMSOTH
McMillen G. Cse., Fort Wayne
5 TIM FRAZIER
Sycamore Hills G.C., Fort Wayne
6 JEFF SMITH
Otter Creek G. Cse., Columbus
7 TOBY BALDWIN
GolfTec Chandler
8 JOHN DUNHAM
Highland G. & C.C., Indianapolis
9 SAM CARMICHAEL
Martinsville C.C.
10 JON HOOVER
Prairie View G.C., Carmel
11 MIKE O'TOOLE
Riverside G. Academy, Noblesville
12 GARY GANT
Chestnut Hills G.C., Fort Wayne
13 COLBY HUFFMAN
Riverside G. Academy, Indianapolis
14 MIKE ABBOTT
The Bridgewater C., Carmel

## IOWA

1 JOHN BERMEL
Pheasant Ridge G.C., Cedar Falls
2 CURT SCHNELL
Okoboji View G. Cse., Spirit Lake
3 LARRY GLADSON
Elmcrest C.C., Cedar Rapids

## KANSAS

1 JOSH COOK
Wichita C.C.
2 RANDY SYRING
Salina C.C.
3 SKIP MAIWALD
Ironhorse G.C., Leawood
4 MATT MURDOCH
Mission Hills C.C.
5 PAUL HOOSER
Alvamar G. Cse., Lawrence
6 ROB SHIPMAN
Milburn C.C., Overland Park

## KENTUCKY

1 MATT KILLEN
The C. at Olde Stone, Bowling Green
2 LARRY WARD
High Performance G. Academy, Nicholasville
3 MIKE THOMAS
Harmony Landing C.C., Goshen
4 TODD TRIMBLE
The G. Complex, Paducah
5 RALPH LANDRUM
World of G., Florence
6 TYRUS YORK
High Performance G. Academy, Nicholasville
7 CORY KAUFMAN
Persimmon Ridge G. Cse., Louisville
8 BRAD BACHAND
Man O' War G. Learning Ctr., Lexington

## LOUISIANA

1 BRIAN MANZELLA (37)
Brian Manzella G. Academy at English Turn G. & C.C., New Orleans
2 JAMES LEITZ (40)
Tchefuncta C.C., Covington
3 SHAUN WEBB
David Toms 265 G. Academy, Shreveport
4 ROB NOEL
Rob Noel G. Academy, Abita Springs

## MAINE

1 DON ROBERTS
Waterville C.C., Oakland
2 JOHN MULLEN
The Woodlands C., Falmouth
3 JASON HURD
Augusta C.C., Manchester
4 PAUL PIVERONAS
The Woodlands C., Falmouth

## MARYLAND

1 BERNIE NAJAR
Caves Valley G.C., Owings Mills
2 PATRICK COYNER
Baltimore C.C., Timonium
3 TRILLIUM ROSE
Woodmont C.C., Rockville
4 PATRICK BEDINGFIELD
Bethesda C.C.
5 HARVEY HADDOCK
TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm
6 JOHN SCOTT RATTAN
Bethesda C.C.
7 WAYNE DeFRANCESCO
Lakewood C.C., Rockville
8 JIM KARDASH
Arundel G. Park, Glen Burnie
9 SEAN ENGLISH
Caves Valley G.C., Owings Mills
10 STEVE BOSDOSH
Members C. at Four Streams, Beallsville
11 MIKE DICKSON
Congressional C.C., Bethesda
12 FRAN RHOADS
TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm
13 LIZA ABOOD
Olney G. Park
14 JIM ESTES
Olney G. Park

## MASSACHUSETTS

1 TOM CAVICCHI
Harmon G. & Fitness, Rockland
2 BOB BEACH
Braintree Municipal G. Cse.
3 JANE FROST
Sandwich Hollows G.C., East Sandwich
4 SHAWN HESTER
Charles River C.C., Newton Centre
5 MARK HEARTFIELD
Sankaty Head G.C., Nantucket
6 BRENDAN WALSH
The Country Club, Brookline
7 SKIP GUSS
GolfRite, Southborough
8 CHIP JOHNSON
Hatherly G.C., North Scituate
9 WEBB HEINTZELMAN
Turner Hill G.C., Ipswich
10 TERRY FELTY
Big Sticks G., Burlington
11 KEVIN RHOADS
The Country Club, Brookline
12 T.J. VALENTINE
Harmon G. & Fitness, Rockland
13 BILL McINERNY JR.
MGG Academy, Dedham
14 PHIL TRUONO
Miacomet G.C., Nantucket

## MICHIGAN

1 RICK SMITH (T-30)
Treetops Resort, Gaylord
2 JASON GUSS
Jason Guss G. Academy at Hawk Hollow, Bath
3 CHARLEY VANDENBURG
Thousand Oaks G. Academy, Grand Rapids
4 ADAM SCHRIBER
LochenHeath G.C., Williamsburg
5 DICK DRAGER
Barton Hills C.C., Ann Arbor
6 JEFF GOBLE
Fox Hills Learning Center, Plymouth
7 CHRIS WHITTEN
U. of Michigan G. Cse., Ann Arbor
8 BRIAN O'NEILL
Boyne G. Academy, Harbor Springs
9 ANNE GAJDA
Fox Hills Learning Center, Plymouth
10 JACK SELTZER
King Par G. Academy, Flushing
11 DAVE KENDALL
Kendall Academy, Ypsilanti
12 PAUL HAASE
Kendall Academy, Ypsilanti
13 LYNN JANSON
Hastings C.C.
14 JORDAN YOUNG
Fox Hills G. Cse., Plymouth
15 STEVE BRADY
Oakland Hills C.C., Bloomfield Hills
16 BRAD DEAN
Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville

## MINNESOTA

1 MIKE BARGE
Hazeltine National G.C., Chaska
2 GERALD McCULLAGH
Eagle Lake G. Ctr., Plymouth
3 SCOTT DIRCK
Geneva G.C., Alexandria
4 CHRIS FOLEY
Cragun's Legacy Courses, Brainerd
5 CRAIG WARYAN
Edinburgh USA G. Cse., Brooklyn Park
6 PETER KRAUSE
Edinburgh USA G. Cse., Brooklyn Park
7 STEVE WHILLOCK
Oak Marsh G.C., Oakdale
8 STACEY CHRISTENSEN
Minnesota Valley C.C., Bloomington
9 STEVE FESSLER
Riverwood National, Otsego
10 ROD LIDENBERG
Halla Greens G.C., Chanhassen
11 INGRID GALLO
Begin Oaks G.C., Plymouth
12 BARB MOXNESS
Minnesota Valley C.C., Bloomington
13 ROGER FAHRENKRUG
Braemar G.C., Edina
14 DEE FORSBERG
Brookview G. Cse., Golden Valley

## MISSISSIPPI

1 V.J. TROLIO
Old Waverly G.C., West Point
2 TOM YELVERTON
Old Waverly G.C., West Point

## MISSOURI

1 BOBBY PAVELONIS
Whitmoor C.C., St. Charles
2 ED SCHWENT
Old Hickory G.C., St. Peters
3 RICK GRAYSON
Rick Grayson G. School, Springfield
4 ROB SEDORCEK
C.C. of St. Albans
5 BRIAN FOGT
Bellerive C.C., St. Louis
6 HELEN KURTIN
G. Body Performance Ctr., Maryland Heights
7 TODD MEYER
Boone Valley G.C., Augusta
8 BRENNDAN COOPER
Tiffany Greens G.C., Kansas City
9 DENNIS BIEDENSTEIN
Fox Run G.C., Eureka
10 CRAIG STORY
Family Golf Center, St. Louis
11 JEFF MULLICAN
G. Headquarters, O'Fallon
12 JIMMY BALS
Westborough C.C., St. Louis

## MONTANA

1 FLOYD HORGEN
Riverside C.C., Bozeman
2 DAVID BAUCOM
Black Bull, Bozeman

## NEBRASKA

1 JAMES SIECKMANN (29)
G. Academy at Shadow Ridge C.C., Omaha
2 JAMES KINNEY
GolfTec Omaha
3 CHRIS THOMSON
Wilderness Ridge G.C., Lincoln
4 MIKE CORNELL
Champions Run, Omaha
5 MIKE SCHUCHART
Wilderness Ridge G.C., Lincoln

## NEVADA

1 BUTCH HARMON (1)
Butch Harmon School of G., Henderson
2 MIKE DAVIS
Walters G. Academy, Las Vegas
3 DON CALLAHAN
Butch Harmon School of G., Henderson
4 JOE MAYO
TPC Summerlin, Las Vegas
5 JAN USHER
Montreux G.C., Reno
6 TOM LEESE
Red Rock C.C., Las Vegas
7 CLIF VANETTI
Badlands G.C., Las Vegas
8 TOM FISCHER
Las Vegas Paiute G. Resort
9 CHRIS EASTMAN
G. Galaxy, Las Vegas

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

1 MARC SPENCER
Windham C.C.
2 SETH DICHARD
Seth Dichard G. School, Hudson

## NEW JERSEY

1 MIKE ADAMS (6)
Hamilton Farm G.C., Gladstone
2 ANDY PLUMMER (43)
Stack & Tilt Academy, Mount Holly
3 MIKE BENNETT (T-50)
Stack & Tilt Academy, Mount Holly
4 JASON CARBONE
Baltusrol G.C., Springfield
5 DAVID GLENZ
David Glenz G. Academy, Long Valley
6 MICHAEL HUNT
Bayonne G.C.
7 JASON BIRNBAUM
Alpine C.C., Demarest
8 BRYAN JONES
David Glenz G. Academy, Long Valley
9 BRIAN DOBBIE
Montclair G.C., West Orange
10 WENDY FERRARA
David Glenz G. Academy, Long Valley
11 SCOTT CHISHOLM
Baltusrol G.C., Springfield
12 ALLAN BOWMAN
Cherry Valley C.C., Skillman
13 MIKE LOPUSZYNSKI
David Glenz G. Academy, Long Valley
14 BILL BRITTON
Trump National G.C., Colts Neck
15 BRUCE CHELUCCI
Blue Heron Pines G.C., Egg Harbor City
16 MIKE STRLEKAR
Montclair G.C., West Orange

## NEW MEXICO

1 PETER HUBER
The C. at Las Campanas, Santa Fe
2 TODD KERSTING
Puerto del Sol G. Cse., Albuquerque

## NEW YORK

1 MICHAEL BREED (13)
Michael Breed G. Academy at Trump G. Links at Ferry Point, New York City

**2 MICHAEL HEBRON (T-25)**
Smithtown Landing C.C.

**3 DARRELL KESTNER (39)**
Deepdale G.C., Manhasset

**4 MIKE JACOBS**
Rock Hill G. & C.C., Manorville

**5 DEBBIE DONIGER**
GlenArbor G.C., Bedford

**6 CHRISTOPHER TOULSON**
Sunningdale C.C., Scarsdale

**7 KEVIN HINTON**
Piping Rock C., Locust Valley

**8 MATT McLEAN**
Fishers Island C.

**9 BOBBY HEINS**
Old Oaks C.C., Purchase

**10 MIKE SWEENEY**
The Bridge, Bridgehampton

**11 KATE TEMPESTA**
Urban G. Academy, New York City

**12 JOHN GRAHAM**
Webster G.C.

**13 TOM PATRI**
Friar's Head G.C., Baiting Hollow

**14 MIKE DIFFLEY**
Pelham C.C.

**15 JOHN HOBBINS**
Greenside G. Academy at Trinity Centre, New York City

**16 ANDERS MATTSON**
Saratoga National G. Academy, Saratoga Springs

**17 JIM MRVA**
Monroe G.C., Pittsford

**18 JEFF WARNE**
The Bridge, Bridgehampton

**19 JEFF GSCHWIND**
Deepdale G.C., Manhasset

**20 KEVIN SPRECHER**
Sleepy Hollow C.C., Scarborough

**21 STEVE BORDNER**
Irondequiot C.C., Pittsford

**22 CINDY MILLER**
Cindy Miller G., Silver Creek

**23 ALLEN MILLER**
Wherle G. Dome, Williamsville

**24 PAT EGGELING**
Old Oaks C.C., Purchase

**25 ALANA SWAIN**
Scarsdale G.C., Hartsdale

**26 GARY WEIR**
Westchester C.C., Rye

## ▸ NORTH CAROLINA

**1 DANA RADER**
Dana Rader G. School, Charlotte

**2 ED IBARGUEN**
Duke University G.C., Durham

**3 ERIC ALPENFELS**
Pinehurst Resort

**4 JASON SUTTON**
Carmel C.C., Charlotte

**5 KELLY MITCHUM**
Pinehurst Resort

**6 DAVID ORR**
Campbell University, Buies Creek

**7 JOHN KOLLS**
Duke University G.C., Durham

**8 RICK MURPHY**
Rick Murphy G. Academy, Greensboro

**9 TOM REAM**
Prestonwood C.C., Cary

**10 GUS ULRICH**
Pinewild G. Academy, Pinehurst

**11 BEN HYNSON**
Lochmere G.C., Cary

**12 JULIE COLE**
Dana Rader G. School, Charlotte

**13 BRAD CLAYTON**
PuzzleDuck G., Oxford

**14 SCOTT DAVENPORT**
Quail Hollow C., Charlotte

## ▸ NORTH DAKOTA

**1 JOHN DAHL**
Oxbow C.C.

## ▸ OHIO

**1 STEVE MULCAHY**
Shawnee C.C., Lima

**2 GARY ROBISON**
Brookside C.C., Canton

**3 DOUG SPENCER**
Spencer G. Academy, Fairfield

**4 LAUREL DIEKEN**
Ables G., Columbus

**5 CHARLIE WOOD**
Mayfield Sand Ridge C., South Euclid

**6 DON SARGENT**
Scioto C.C., Columbus

**7 FRAN KOCSIS**
Champions G. Cse., Columbus

**8 RENEE POWELL**
Clearview G.C., East Canton

**9 JIM McGURK**
Belmont C.C., Toledo

**10 JON JONES**
Youngstown C.C.

**11 JUSTIN BRONKEMA**
The G. Pit, Maumee

**12 NICK PAEZ**
GolfTec Cleveland West

**13 BILL McKINLEY**
Canterbury G.C., Cleveland

**14 JIMMY LOGUE**
Wedgewood G. & C.C., Powell

**15 NOAH HORSTMAN**
Beechmont C.C., Cleveland

**16 JOE LEENHEER**
Silver Lake C.C.

## ▸ OKLAHOMA

**1 TRACY PHILLIPS**
Cedar Ridge C.C., Broken Arrow

**2 CARY COZBY**
Southern Hills C.C., Tulsa

**3 E.J. PFISTER**
Oak Tree National, Edmond

**4 STEVE BALL**
Ball G. Ctr., Oklahoma City

## ▸ OREGON

**1 JERRY MOWLDS**
Pumpkin Ridge G.C., North Plains

**2 BRUCE FURMAN**
Langdon Farms G.C., Aurora

**3 CHRISTOPHER SMITH**
Pumpkin Ridge G.C., North Plains

**4 JIM WALDRON**
Balance Point G., Portland

**5 ED FISHER**
Ed Fisher Academy of G., Medford

## ▸ PENNSYLVANIA

**1 TED SHEFTIC**
Ted Sheftic G. Learning Ctr., Abbottstown

**2 JOHN DUNIGAN**
White Manor C.C., Malvern

**3 DOM DiJULIA**
Dom DiJulia G., New Hope

**4 ERIC JOHNSON**
Oakmont C.C.

**5 BOB KRAMER**
Bent Creek C.C., Lititz

**6 MARK SHEFTIC**
Merion G.C., Ardmore

**7 ERIC MacCLUEN**
Eric MacCluen G. Academy, Downingtown

**8 LOU GUZZI**
Lou Guzzi G. Academy at Talamore C.C., Ambler

**9 JOHN SPINA**
Philadelphia Cricket C., Flourtown

**10 KEVIN SHIELDS**
C. at Nevillewood, Presto

**11 MIKE DYNDA**
Meadowlands C.C., Blue Bell

**12 GARY HARDIN**
Northampton C.C., Easton

**13 JOHN BIERKAN**
Aronimink G.C., Newtown Square

**14 MARK ANDERSON**
Philadelphia Cricket C., Flourtown

**15 ELIZABETH GRANAHAN**
G2 G. Group at Chester Valley G.C., Malvern

## ▸ RHODE ISLAND

**1 KYLE PHELPS**
Rhode Island C.C., Barrington

**2 MIKE HARBOUR**
Mulligan's Island G., Cranston

## ▸ SOUTH CAROLINA

**1 RON CERRUDO**
Daniel Island C.

**2 DOUG WEAVER**
Palmetto Dunes Resort, Hilton Head

**3 MEREDITH KIRK**
Blackmoor G.C., Murrells Inlet

**4 MEGAN PADUA**
Belfair Plantation, Bluffton

**5 PATTI McGOWAN**
Converse College, Spartanburg

**6 CAROL PREISINGER**
Kiawah Island C.

**7 BRAD REDDING**
The International C. of Myrtle Beach

**8 DAVID LA POUR**
Colleton River Plantation, Bluffton

**9 ANDREW RICE**
Berkeley Hall, Bluffton

**10 KRISTA DUNTON**
Berkeley Hall, Bluffton

**11 TIM COOKE**
Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head Island

**12 RICK BARRY**
Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head Island

## ▸ SOUTH DAKOTA

**1 JUSTIN ARLT**
Dakota Dunes C.C.

## ▸ TENNESSEE

**1 JOE HALLETT (44)**
Vanderbilt Legends C., Franklin

**2 ROB AKINS**
Rob Akins G. Academy at Spring Creek Ranch, Collierville

**3 JOHNNY WARREN**
Johnny Warren G. Academy, Gallatin

**4 BUDDY HARSTON**
Vanderbilt Legends C., Franklin

**5 WILL TAYLOR**
TPC Southwind, Memphis

**6 BRIAN LACKEY**
G. Institute at Gaylord Springs, Nashville

**7 HENRIK SIMONSEN**
The Honors C., Ooltewah

**8 DES MAHONEY**
Centennial G. Academy, Oak Ridge

**9 ERIC REBMANN**
Egwani Farms G.C., Rockford

## ▸ TEXAS

**1 CHUCK COOK (2)**
Chuck Cook G. Academy, Austin

**2 JIM HARDY (7)**
Plane Truth G., Houston

**3 HANK HANEY (10)**
Hank Haney G., Lewisville

**4 CAMERON McCORMICK (17)**
Brook Hollow G.C., Dallas

**5 DAVE PELZ (20)**
Dave Pelz Scoring Game Schools, Austin

**6 RANDY SMITH (28)**
Royal Oaks C.C., Dallas

**7 CHRIS COMO (35)**
Gleneagles C.C., Plano

**8 MIKE McGETRICK (38)**
Mike McGetrick G. Academy, Humble

**9 CHRIS O'CONNELL**
Plane Truth at the Courses at Watters Creek, Plano

**10 KEVIN KIRK**
The Woodlands C.C.

**11 BILL MORETTI**
Austin G.C.

**12 COREY LUNDBERG**
The C. at Carlton Woods, The Woodlands

**13 PAUL MARCHAND**
Shadow Hawk G.C., Richmond

**14 JIM MURPHY**
Sugar Creek C.C., Sugar Land

**15 BETSY CULLEN**
Pine Forest C.C., Houston

**16 CHARLIE EPPS**
Champions G.C., Houston

**17 PAT O'BRIEN**
Lakewood C.C., Dallas

**18 SCOTT ROBBINS**
Scott Robbins G., The Colony

**19 CAMERON DOAN**
Preston Trail G.C., Dallas

**20 KYLE JEROME**
Academy of G. Dynamics, Austin

**21 TIM CUSICK**
Four Seasons Resort & C., Irving

**22 BRECH SPRADLEY**
Barton Creek G. Academy, Austin

**23 MARK STEINBAUER**
The C. at Carlton Woods, The Woodlands

**24 CAROL MANN**
The Woodlands C.C.

**25 MARTY FLECKMAN**
Marty Fleckman G., Cypress

**26 JIM PHENICIE**
Royal Oaks C.C., Houston

**27 BRYAN GATHRIGHT**
Oak Hills C.C., San Antonio

**28 STEVE JOHNSON**
Hank Haney G., Lewisville

**29 JOEY WUERTEMBERGER**
Jim McLean G. Ctr., Fort Worth

**30 SUCKKI JANG**
Hank Haney G., Lewisville

## ▸ UTAH

**1 DOUG ROBERTS**
Entrada at Snow Canyon, St. George

**2 JON PAUPORE**
Jim McLean G. School at Red Ledges, Park City

**3 COREY BADGER**
GolfLab, Salt Lake City

**4 SCOTT DRAPER**
River's Edge G.C. at Burley

## ▸ VERMONT

**1 RON PHILO JR.**
Stowe Mountain C.

**2 JAY MORELLI**
The Original G. School at Mt. Snow, West Dover

**3 ERIK SORENSEN**
Dorset Field C.

## ▸ VIRGINIA

**1 ERIKA LARKIN**
Larkin G. Learning Community, Bristow

**2 CHRIS GEORGE**
Kingsmill Resort, Williamsburg

**3 STEVE SLOTTERBACK**
Kinloch G.C., Manakin-Sabot

**4 ADAM SMITH**
Salisbury C.C., Midlothian

**5 LESLIE GUTTENBERG**
Bull Run G.C., Aldie

**6 MARK FRY**
Homestead Resort, Hot Springs

**7 RICHARD WHITE**
Willow Oaks C.C., Richmond

**8 KANDI COMER**
Old Trail G.C., Crozet

**9 MARK GUTTENBERG**
Bull Run G.C., Aldie

**10 DEAN HURST**
Bayville G.C., Virginia Beach

**11 M.J. SMITH**
Army-Navy C.C., Arlington

**12 ROB McNAMARA**
Farmington C.C., Charlottesville

## ▸ WASHINGTON

**1 BILL TINDALL**
The G.C. at Newcastle

**2 KATHY GILDERSLEEVE-JENSEN**
Indian Canyon G. Cse., Spokane

**3 JOE THIEL**
Joe Thiel G. Schools, Olympia

**4 DOUG DOXSIE**
Seattle G.C.

**5 JIM BENNETT**
ProGolf Discount, Tukwila

**6 JEFF COSTON**
Jeff Coston G. Academy, Blaine

**7 TED NAFF**
Gold Mountain G.C., Bremerton

**8 STEVE PRUGH**
Manito G. & C.C., Spokane

**9 SCOTT WILLIAMS**
Glendale C.C., Bellevue

**10 BILL PORTER**
Links at Moses Pointe, Moses Lake

**11 TODD ERWIN**
Tacoma Firs G. Center

## ▸ WEST VIRGINIA

**1 ROBBIE GILMORE**
The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs

## ▸ WISCONSIN

**1 MANUEL DE LA TORRE (21)**
Milwaukee C.C., River Hills

**2 KEVIN KRAMP**
Hidden Glen at Bentdale Farms, Cedarburg

**3 DENNIS TIZIANI**
Cherokee C.C., Madison

**4 LARRY TIZIANI**
Cherokee C.C., Madison

**5 DAVID ROESCH**
Storm's G. Range, Brookfield

**6 TRAVIS BECKER**
Cherokee C.C., Madison

**7 PAT GORMAN**
Pat Gorman G. Academy, Verona

**8 JOHN WALLRICH**
Pine Hills C.C., Sheboygan

## ▸ WYOMING

**1 GREG GLOVER**
3 Creek Ranch G.C., Jackson



MY SHOT • AGE 42 • DALLAS • TEXAS

# KING OF



# THE HILL

CAMERON McCORMICK ON THE TRICK TO TEACHING JORDAN SPIETH—AND SOMEONE LIKE YOU. WITH GUY YOCOM

Photograph by Dom Furore

# IT'S

**SUMMER, 1998.** My playing career was going nowhere, I hadn't begun teaching and didn't have a job. My girlfriend, Somer—she's now my wife and mother of our two kids—and I are living in New York City, where she's interning at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square. During the day I'm working as a photographer's assistant. At night, from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m., I'm passing out night-club fliers on the back streets. There's nothing quite like the feeling of a person taking one of your fliers and then looking you in the eye as they drop it on the pavement. You never forget it. If you're wondering if coaching Jordan Spieth has robbed me of humility, the answer is, not yet.

**LATE IN APRIL**, after Jordan won the Masters, we were reflecting on his performance, his opening-round 64 in particular. It was pretty much flawless, one shot off tying the course record. It was one brilliant shot and great putt after another, nine birdies in all. The only hiccup came at the par-5 15th hole, where he hit a hybrid over the green and made his only bogey. Jordan isn't one to look back with regret, but that one time he said he should have hit the 4-iron instead of the hybrid. He pointed out that if the 4-iron lands on the green, he probably makes birdie and shoots 62. And if he makes an eagle, it's a 61, the best score in Masters history by two shots.

• • •

**AND THERE'S THE DIFFERENCE.** Players used to come off an incredible round and recognize it as a magical career accomplishment. Today, guys like Jordan want another bite at the apple. To them it's like riding the world's scariest roller coaster—after they survive it, they can't wait to find one even bigger and scarier.

**JORDAN LAID UP** a lot on the par 5s at Augusta. On the back nine especially, he rarely went for the 13th and 15th in two. In our preparation, I came up with a practice exercise I call "wedge four ways." At 10-yard increments from 40 to 90 yards, I required that he hit shots on four trajectories: low, medium, high and extra high. All had to land no more than two yards short or long of the target. We then scored the number of attempts it took to pull all of these off. At the Masters, Jordan played the par 5s in 12 under par. He told me later, "You know that 'wedge-four-ways' drill? On every one of the par 5s I used a different trajectory from that game." As a teacher, that's rewarding.

• • •

**THE NEW WAVE** of players tends not to dwell on their failures. Disappointing episodes that once upon a time could be career-ending, they tend to move on and learn from. They're getting better at not giving scar tissue time to form. In Jordan's case, I look back at two low moments. The first was at the 2010 U.S. Amateur at Chambers Bay, after he'd won the 2009 U.S. Junior Amateur. The wheels came off in the second round, and he shot 83, failing to make it into match play. He was frustrated, irritated and distraught, blaming the wind, odd bounces. It wasn't merely a performance issue, it was a psychological maturity issue. He learned from that. He won the U.S. Junior a second time the following year. And you saw what he did the next time he saw Chambers Bay—he won the U.S. Open.

• • •

**SOON AFTER JORDAN** won his first U.S. Junior, I set up a wedge contest with him, me and one of his high-school teammates. We played to the first six greens at Brook Hollow from wedge distance, taking turns choosing scenarios and playing the ball into the hole. I'm beating the kids, and to try to motivate them I'm saying stuff like, "How are you letting a washed-up club pro beat you guys?" On our last hole, the flag is on the front of the green, just beyond a false front that will cause the ball to roll back into a valley if you come up short. Very tough shot. I play first and put the ball 20 feet beyond the hole, making sure I avoid the false front. His buddy does the same thing. Now it's Jordan's turn, and he rips it right at the pin. He's always been aggressive, and this time it's a bad move. The ball grabs the false front and rolls 20 yards back into the valley. Now I really give it to him. "Where is your head, Jordan? You're the U.S. Junior champion, and right now your head must be on your girlfriend or your homework, because it's sure not in the game." He said, "Forget it. I'm still going to make birdie." I said, "There's no way you're holing it from down there. You're done." Jordan just stared at me. He's motivated. He looks the shot over very carefully. He takes his wedge and screams the ball low into the false front, where it takes one big bounce onto the green, checks, and trickles into the hole. He runs up on the green, taking these big bounding steps, and he points at me. "See? Don't tell me what I can or can't do." I came right back, "That's exactly the kind of attitude I wanted you to have when you showed up today."

• • •

**WHEN JORDAN** was a young teenager, I gave him a green-reading test. Sneaking out in advance to a secondary practice green at Brook Hollow, I came up with series of long, super-hard putts, double-breakers over ridges to holes cut on the downhill side. Twisting sidehillers. Putts that were almost impossible. I sort of set him up to fail, which I knew would make my green-reading pronouncements more effective. Jordan then proceeded to stop every one of those putts within a few inches of the hole. He holed several of them. He said, "What's next?" I said, "Let's go hit some chips."

• • •

**I'M A BELIEVER** in "immersion." I took up golf at 16 in my native Australia. As they say in Texas, I got "ate up by it." All I did was play, all day every day. There was no Internet, and the game wasn't quite as evolved there, so what I learned came from playing, reading magazines,

books, encyclopedias and what little I saw on TV. I was largely self-taught and totally immersed, which is a good way to instill the things that are important in the golf swing. Formalized teaching is fantastic, but digging things out of the dirt gave me an important foundation that made me a better teacher.

• • •

**AT 17**, with no competitive résumé at all, I wrote a bunch of letters to colleges in America seeking a scholarship. Not one Division I school offered me a scholarship—who would?—but I did get an offer from Butler Community College in El Dorado, Kan. I went there in 1991 half expecting a setting like "The Wizard of Oz." I was alone, and there was some culture shock, but after two years I got good enough to get a scholarship at Texas Tech in Lubbock.

• • •

**YOU PUT A SHY**, introverted kid from Australia into an exuberant environment like Texas Tech, and he's going to sprout some wings. A bunch of us were at a Texas Tech football game once. We were carrying on, and security came by and busted the kid sitting next to me for underage drinking. I protested, which did not please one of the policemen. "Oh, yeah?" he said. "How old are you?" I answered, a little too smugly, "I'm 21." The policeman said, "You're under arrest for contributing to the delinquency of a minor." It was extreme, but standing in front of a judge scared the heck out of me. That was the end of what Australians call "larrikin behavior."

• • •

**I GRADUATED** from Texas Tech and briefly went home to Australia. Lovesick for my college sweetheart and feeling I could play professionally, I came back to America and started playing in earnest. I missed getting my tour card and played in a lot of mini-tour events without success. Driving from town to town, living out of my orange Volkswagen camper van, I was at loose ends. Reality finally hit me at a Nike Tour qualifier in Alabama. I played pretty good and shot one under. The guy I played with was the best ball-striker I'd ever played with. He shot seven under—and missed by one. I sat in my van, looked in the crystal ball of my future and thought, *I will never be able to play this game for a living*.

• • •

**STROKES OF LUCK** are essential in golf and life. As I was preparing to put my degree in international business to work, I interviewed for a job at what is now the Lakes at Castle Hills, a club outside Dallas. The head pro who interviewed me coincidentally had gone to Texas Tech, and next thing I know, I'm behind the pro-shop counter. I get connected to the pro's friend over at Dallas Country Club, where I move and soon have an opportunity to start teaching. Without those chance encounters, who knows where I'd be today?

• • •

**MY FAVORITE** Ben Hogan quote is, "If it's meant to be, it's up to me." He was describing the load that's on the player. Ultimately, everyone around the golfer is a step removed from what matters—getting the ball in the hole. I'm a navigator for Jordan. I provide a road map for him, a compass. And sometimes, only occasionally, I'm a fire extinguisher. It's an important role, but it's performed from the wings, not center stage.

• • •

**IN AUSTRALIA** there's a phenomenon known as the "tall-poppy syndrome." If someone is perceived as becoming too successful, they'll tend to cut that person down to size. In America in general and the golf business specifically, it's exactly the opposite. People will try to lift you up. When I was starting out, I wrote letters to a bunch of the best teachers in America, asking if I could visit and observe them teaching. I received invitations from 25 of them, including Butch Harmon, Randy Smith, Chuck Cook, Craig Shankland, Dr. Rick Jensen and Cameron Doan. With all of them, I got the sense they enjoyed helping me. A feeling that a rising tide lifts all boats.

• • •

**ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO**, I had a student, a young professional out of Tulane, who I worked very hard with. A tremendous hitter of the ball. He got through the first stage of Q school. The second stage was at Stonebridge Ranch north of Dallas. The final round, he's seven under and one stroke inside the cut line with one hole to play. In those days if you got to the final stage you were assured of a place to play, so his whole year was riding on it. There's water on the right, and he pushes it just a bit, and the wind takes it into the water. He makes double and misses by one. His swing didn't go haywire. He did very well in every aspect. But there was a tiny piece of the total-performance package missing. That kept me up a lot of nights. The most perplexing challenges still do.

• • •

**THE WORD USED TO BE** "teacher." Today it's "coach," which is a better word because our role entails more than it used to. It wasn't long ago that teaching was strictly about technique. Now it's about holistic development of the player. Psychology. Practice. Statistical analysis. Game plan. Physical conditioning. Nutrition. Some of these areas are outside my expertise, but I'm astute enough to see if there are opportunities for improvement in these areas, and know where to send a player to get them. Imagine Jordan Spieth if he were to improve 1 percent in every area. A Jordan who overall is 10 percent better than he is right now. It's mind-boggling to contemplate. And very much possible.

• • •

**I HAVE SOME** teenage players coming up, including Will Zalatoris and Austin Connelly, who underscore the nature of teaching young people versus adults. Will, a sophomore at Wake Forest, has won the U.S. Junior and Texas State Amateur, and Austin, 18, just played in the Byron Nelson. Coaching them is "teaching downstream." They have the current and momentum going their way, which, combined with their time and energy, produces amazing results. Coaching adults, on the other hand, is teaching upstream. They often don't have the time or physical prowess to improve dramatically. They have a romantic notion they're going to practice for six hours a week, but they get caught in some eddy of life, and it winds up being 30 minutes. It's all they can do to stay where they are.

• • •

**A GREAT FULL SWING** has always been where it's at. I don't see a day where there will be more short-game and putting gurus than full-swing specialists. The full swing sells better, and teachers understandably are drawn to what sells. Then there's the golfer. He or she wants to hit it well, hit it far and have a good-looking swing. It's sexier. And it can be argued

McCormick says Jordan Spieth used the "wedge-four-ways" drill to play Augusta's par 5s in 12 under par.



**'I'M A NAVIGATOR FOR JORDAN. I PROVIDE A ROAD MAP FOR HIM, A COMPASS. AND SOMETIMES, ONLY OCCASIONALLY, I'M A FIRE EXTINGUISHER.'**

OPENING PAGE: UNDER ARMOUR; SHIRT, $70 • ERIN BLINN

# 'STATS ARE LIKE BIKINIS: THEY SHOW YOU A LOT BUT DON'T SHOW YOU EVERYTHING.'

that better ball-striking is the quickest way to improvement.

• • •

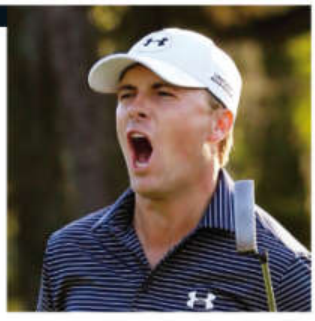
**THEY SAY** the grass is always greener on the other side, but it can't be any greener for me than it is now. I've been named director of instruction at Trinity Forest Golf Club, which is under construction south of Dallas. It opens in 2016. Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw are doing the design, and there will be nothing in Texas like it. They're building a teaching center that I get to run. Only a very small handful of teachers—Butch, Jim McLean and Hank Haney come to mind—have had schools with their imprint, so it's almost hard to believe it's happening to me.

• • •

**THE OTHER DAY** Jordan was trying out some new irons. We had a TrackMan there to measure everything carefully. Jordan got in a nice groove with these clubs. He's hitting a stock 6-iron, which in Dallas flies 196 to 198 yards. TrackMan measures carry distance to the tenth of a yard, and Jordan is hitting it so well that we start betting $5 a shot, while the ball is in the air for six seconds or so, exactly how far it will fly. Whack, followed by me shouting. "196.9" and Jordan answering, "197.6" Don't get me wrong, it's just a game. No human can guess to a tenth of a yard how far a ball will fly, even while it's in the air. But when a player like Jordan is on, you can come surprisingly close.

• • •

**DUSTIN JOHNSON** hit a drive 406 yards this year during the WGC-Bridgestone at Firestone. If you think that's insane, I don't think we've seen anything yet. In the next 10 years, as golf continues to absorb athletes who would have played other sports, players are going to come along who are even bigger and stronger than Dustin, Bubba and Tony Finau. Size matters, and the percentage of physically large tour players is going to be much higher. You're going to see players hit the ball considerably farther than the longest guys do now. Well over 400 yards in many instances.



"From five feet, he's ranked 183rd. . . . I think you'd find that a lot of those five-footers were extraordinarily difficult."

• • •

**TIGER WOODS** has an important accomplishment left in his bag. If he comes back and wins, and it fuels him to one more great season, it will show other players that there's light beyond the abyss. The number of inspiring comeback stories will increase dramatically. What a gift that would be.

• • •

**IN PUTTING** especially, science will never surpass art. You can have all the science in the world, but without artistic perceptual skills that take into account an endless litany of environmental variables, you won't get the job done. I would rate the human perceptual end as high as 95 percent. I appreciate the technology as a broad guide, but it's only a jumping-off point.

• • •

**WILL LEFT-HAND LOW** become the predominant putting style in the future? I don't think so. I think we'll see a huge cross-section of methods—claws, arm-bars like Bernhard Langer used to win the 1993 Masters, maybe even sidesaddle. All stigmas will be removed. I'm agnostic about them all. All that matters is making the ball behave.

**ARE YOU AN OPTIMIZER** or a "satisficer"? The optimizer is someone who wants only the ideal, a model that will produce perfection. Tiger, for better and worse, is the epitome of that. The satisficer works within the swing or ball flight he has. He tries to get better but prefers to "dance with who brung him." Jim Furyk is the quintessential satisficer. My preference is for someone who optimizes when he practices and satisfices when he plays.

• • •

**SPEAKING OF OPTIMIZERS,** when Nick Faldo rebuilt his swing under David Leadbetter and became one of the great technical wonders in history, I was convinced that was what I should teach. Working with students over the course of a couple of years, I found that approach was not getting results for my students. It lacked effectiveness and staying power. My students found it too demanding physically. They did not improve very quickly and thus had psychological limitations in terms of patience to get better. Faldo took two years working full time to achieve his mastery. My students had considerably less time than that. It just wasn't practical.

• • •

**FOR CLOSE TO 60 YEARS,** Ben Hogan's *Five Lessons: The Modern Fundamentals of Golf* has been considered the bible of golf. But so many great players do things that run contrary to his method, I have to conclude it's overrated. It's a template from which you can pick and choose parts that work, but you don't have to adopt anywhere close to the whole thing. The things Hogan touts as absolutely critical aren't even necessary. I see almost no grips as weak as what Hogan espoused. The stances, postures, individual positions and sequences of movement are radically different from Hogan's, but just as effective. The problem with *Five Lessons* is the word "fundamentals." Hogan's fundamentals were far from being cornerstones, or even keystones. It was simply one great player's system that worked for him.

**I CALL IT** "the 20-minute runway." You get 20 minutes to make a breakthrough with a student. If it doesn't happen, they're nodding at you. The nod is deadly because you know they're thinking, *After this lesson is over I'm never working on this again*. Quick results are imperative—you can get to the deeper swing challenges later.

• • •

**WORST BIT OF DOGMA:** That the lower half of your body should resist against the upper half. Most players aren't flexible enough to make this approach work even remotely. If you're talking the bane of most golfers' existence—weak ball flight, poor contact and slice—this is it. The trouble is, it's so darned palatable conceptually. It looks so good. The temptation to try it is irresistible. But it's like crack. It might feel good, but it will kill you.

• • •

**I'M A BIG BELIEVER** in tips. The quick thought that gets a player through a weekend or a single round. The kind of tip that can be applied during a warm-up as opposed to a full-on practice session.

• • •

**STATS ARE LIKE BIKINIS:** They show you a lot but don't show you everything. Jordan ranks 36th in putting from six feet. From five feet, he's ranked 183rd. From four feet, he magically rises to 41st. Does it mean that he's vexed from five feet? No. If you looked a little deeper, I think you'd find that a lot of those five-footers were extraordinarily difficult.

• • •

**ON MONDAY** during this year's PGA Championship, I did "The Golf Fix" live with Michael Breed on Golf Channel. A bunch of people were watching, and as I walked off the set a fellow handed me a flag and asked me to sign it. He clearly thought I was somebody famous because I was on TV. I tried to talk him out of it—I could picture him showing off the flag to his buddies when he got home and them asking, "Who is Cameron McCormick?"—but he kept insisting. So I went ahead and wrote my name, which takes up a lot of space. If you're the recipient of that flag and are reading this, please know it wasn't all my fault.

SAM GREENWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

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"THE SWORD DANCE IS A DRAMA.
I AM A MATADOR. THE HOLE IS A BULL."
—CHI CHI RODRIGUEZ / 12.03



TO CELEBRATE
GOLF DIGEST'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY,
ENJOY THE LESSONS
FROM OUR CLASSIC
MY SHOT INTERVIEW SERIES

BY GUY YOCOM

# GIMME YOUR BEST SHOT

Actors, athletes and daredevils. Inventors, pioneers and teachers. Golfers of every kind: young and old, famous and obscure, pro and amateur. In the long history of Golf Digest—we celebrate our 65th anniversary this year—no feature has brought to life the people in and around golf more distinctively than the My Shot series. Beginning in 2002, when we visited 89-year-old Sam Snead at his home in Virginia, we've invited the game's most compelling characters to provide a first-person telling of who they are, not just as golfers but as people. From each has come opinion, wisdom, humor, hope, regret and ruminations on what Bobby Jones called the greatest game of all. ▸ Turn the pages and take in the revealing passages and portraits: Arnold Palmer and Tom Watson on their golf nightmares, Jack Nicklaus on his "helicopter rule," the late Evel Knievel on getting airborne in a golf cart, Bubba Watson on why he won't change a light bulb, and Boo Weekley on his on-course fistfight. Life lessons from many of the personalities we've encountered, more than 25 of whom are Hall of Famers. If the all-new edition from Jordan Spieth's teacher, Cameron McCormick (*page 88*), tells us anything, it's that the greatest profundities are still to come.



"WHEN I WAS LITTLE, 'THE LONE RANGER' DOMINATED MY LIFE." —TOM WEISKOPF / 06.02

## TAKING ON TIGER

**SAM SNEAD / 04.02**

MY SHOT'S DEBUT

▸ Could I have whipped Tiger Woods? Hell, yes. In my prime I could do anything with a golf ball I wanted. No man scared me on the golf course.

## TWO BAD BETS

**GARY MCCORD / 01.05**

▸ In Valdosta, Ga., during a mini-tour event, a player named James Black bet me $20 he could put five golf balls in his mouth and then close his mouth all the way. I tried it but could get only two in there. James put all five balls in, which was amazing, but then he said, "I'll give you a chance to get even. I bet I can fit a whole loaf of bread in my mouth." There's no way a human can do this! So I went out, got one of those extra-long loaves of Wonder Bread and took it back. James just smiled. He started compressing the bread—squeezed it, sat on it, stomped on it—and then began shoving it in his mouth. It took awhile, but he got it all in there and closed his mouth. It was the damnedest thing I've ever seen, a bargain for the $40 it cost me.

## A GOLF GENIUS

**MOE NORMAN / 11.04**

▸ I'm good with numbers. Number of courses played: 434. Number of courses I can remember the exact hole yardages: 375. Age when I saw my first doctor: 68. Number of two-stroke penalties in one 11-year period: only one—I hit a drive that went out-of-bounds by two feet. Most balls hit in one day: 2,207. Total balls hit in my lifetime: about 5 million, not counting chips and putts.



## FIRST-TEE NERVES

**EDDIE MERRINS / 01.07**

▸ First-tee jitters are a real problem for people. Always have been, always will be. The best way to calm yourself a little—I say a little, because a little nervousness can work to your advantage—is to toss your golf ball a few inches in the air and catch it while you wait. Do it over and over. It's an amazing little trick, a form of hypnosis, really. Hypnosis is nothing but deep relaxation, and tossing the ball has a hypnotic, calming effect. Just the fact that you're able to catch the ball will give you enough subliminal confidence to get the ball down the fairway when it's your turn to play.

## REMEMBERING A REAL JOB

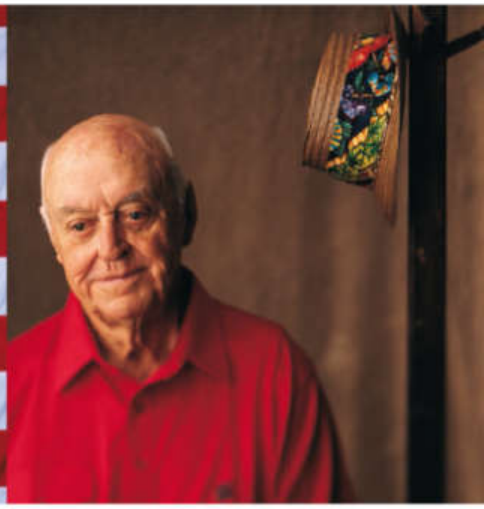
**CURTIS STRANGE / 02.05**

▸ The day I turned pro, I was $10,000 in debt. My father had passed away when I was 14, and by the time I left college, money was an issue. I'd borrowed the money to play my last year of amateur golf, and when I turned pro I was living hand to mouth, trying like hell to pay off that loan. There was a lot of pressure, but a lot of guys from that era were used to that

RODRIGUEZ: DOM FURORE • WEISKOPF: CHIP SIMONS • STRANGE: PETER GREGOIRE







and rolled with it. I'd had a job in high school, and I figured if golf didn't work out I'd just get another job, hopefully in the golf business. I'm not saying my values are any better than pro athletes you see today, but for better or worse, most of them have never had a real job.

### BROKEN MENTALLY
**DR. BOB ROTELLA / 01.03**

▸ A former world-class player who can barely break 80 now, and whose name I won't mention, pulled me aside at Westchester a couple of years ago. He told me, "I used to cry when I walked off the 18th green because there was no more golf to play. Now I cry when I walk off the ninth green because I have to play nine more."

### DRAWING THE LINE
**JASON DUFNER / 08.14**

▸ When I leave the course, the golf bag stays there. I'm not a take-your-putter-back-to-the-hotel kind of guy.

### THE GENERAL
**FRANK CHIRKINIAN / 09.03**

▸ Like Patton, when I wanted to get my message across [as a producer at CBS], I gave it to them loud and dirty. In rehearsals I was profane as

**"HERE'S IRONY FOR YOU: THE DRIVER GOES THE SHORTEST DISTANCE WHEN YOU THROW IT. THE PUTTER FLIES THE FARTHEST."**
**—TOMMY BOLT / 11.02**



BOLT: DOM FURORE • DUFNER: WALTER IOOSS JR. • CHIRKINIAN: JOEY TERRILL • SNEAD: BEN VAN HOOK

could be. I ripped everybody. We had seven announcers all wanting air time, and it was important they remember I was the boss. I treated my crew almost like children, and let's face it, sometimes children need to be spanked. It was a form of tough love. As a result, I had a very loyal group of individuals working for me, and the loyalty was returned in kind.

### THESE GUYS ARE GOOD
**CASEY MARTIN** / 03.08

▸ One week in 2000 I missed the cut at Bay Hill. I was hanging around practicing, and I see Mickelson hitting flop shots. I walk over to watch, and he's doing things that aren't human. I mean, he's taking a full swing on a 40-foot chip and sucking the ball back past the spot where it landed. He's holing shots left and right. If you think Phil is impressive on the golf course, you should watch him practice. It's getting almost depressing, so I go over to the range to say hi to Tiger. He's out there hitting his 260-yard stinger, and then he switches to a wedge and starts banging 125-yard shots off the flagstick, hooking one, then fading one, then hitting them high and low. I really was about at the top of my game at the time, and this took me down a peg. I limped over to my courtesy car very slowly that day.

### SHARKS & OTHER ANIMALS
**GREG NORMAN** / 03.04

▸ Don't piss off a kangaroo. He'll stand on his tail and kick hell out of you with his big feet, which have huge toenails. Don't fool with a koala bear, either. You look at one and want to put him next to your pillow, but climb a tree and mess with him and you've got a problem. Sharks you already know about.

### ARNIE'S NIGHTMARE
**ARNOLD PALMER** / 06.07

▸ My whole career, I never missed a tee time. Not once, which I suppose is saying a lot for a career that's spanned 60 years and thousands of rounds of golf. Now, for many years I've had a recurring dream that I miss my tee time. In the dream there's no consequence because I wake up abruptly. You can't imagine the relief, realizing that it was just a dream. Now that I'm retired, I'm hoping to hell that dream will go away.

### SIZE DOESN'T MATTER
**BOB TOSKI** / 08.02

▸ My best year on the PGA Tour was 1954. I won four tournaments and was the leading money-winner. I weighed 118 pounds. The moral is, if you're good enough, you're big enough.

### GOLF PERVERTS
**CHUBBY CHANDLER** / 10.11

▸ I call them "golf perverts." We've all met them. They're the people so engrossed in the game they rarely talk about anything else. Golf is their great love and only hobby. Golf perverts assume that everyone shares their level of enthusiasm at all times. They're important because they love the game and help drive it. But people who work in the game or play it professionally all day often don't want to be consumed by it at breakfast and dinner.

### AN ACTOR BOMBS
**SAMUEL L. JACKSON** / 12.05

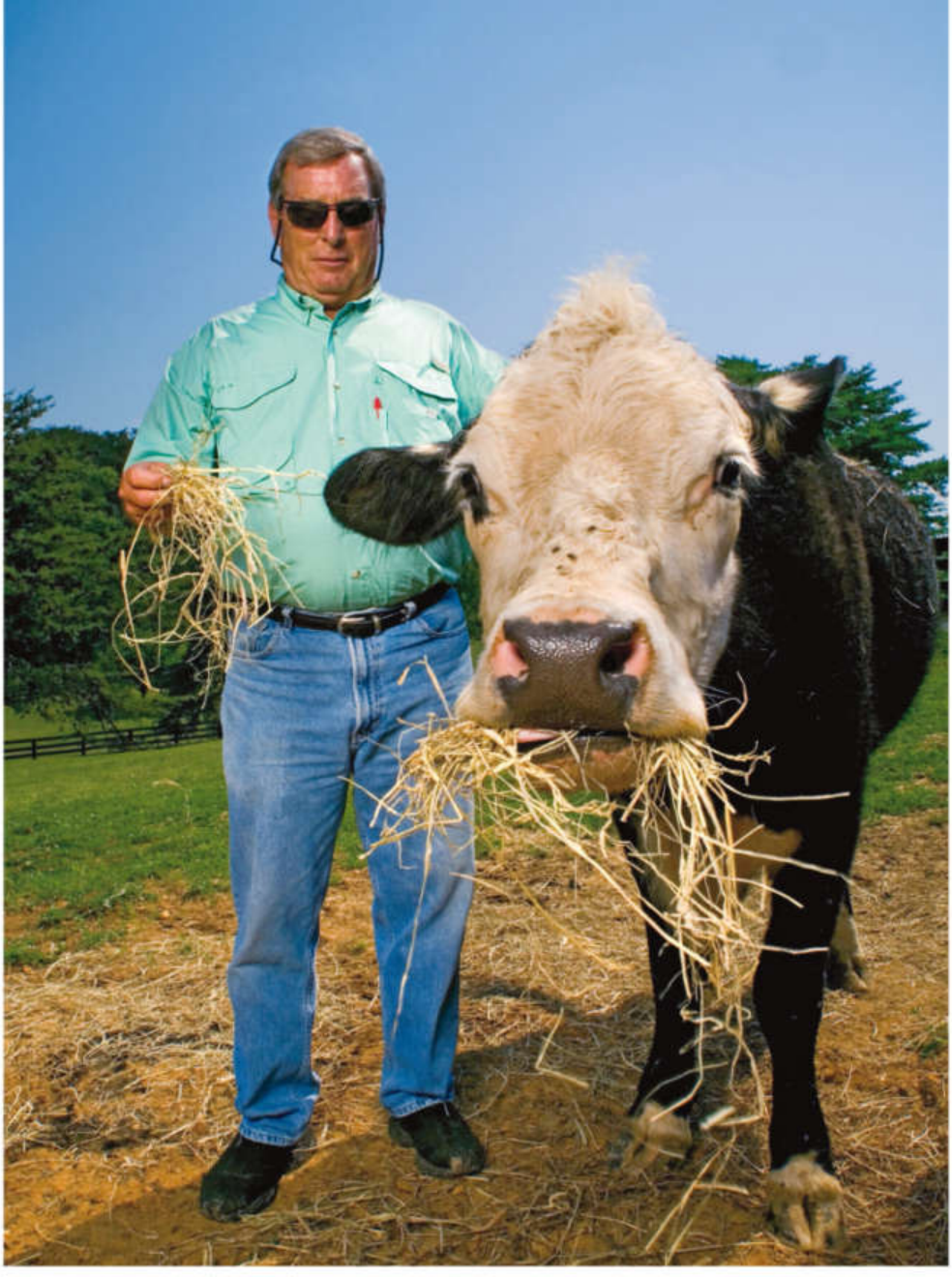
▸ I love to sign autographs for kids but insist they say "please." At the AT&T this year, I found

**"THE ORIGINS OF THE UNIVERSE ARE SIMPLY UNKNOWABLE." —JIMMY WALKER** / 02.15






WALKER: DAN WINTERS • NORMAN: DOM FURORE



ZOELLER: PETER GREGOIRE • CHANDLER: JUDE EDGINTON • TOSKI: DOM FURORE • JACKSON: BEN VAN HOOK

**"I'M GLAD I DON'T HAVE TO MAKE A LIVING FARMING. TOO MUCH HARD WORK."**
**—FUZZY ZOELLER / 08.06**

myself near the ropes by a large group of kids, all of them waving their programs for me to sign. But I don't hear "please," so I figure it's time to enforce the rules. I announce loudly, so the whole gallery can hear, "What are you supposed to say?" The kids don't answer, they just continue waving the programs. I repeat myself, this time more sternly: "What's the magic word?" Still no answer. I'm ready to walk away when one of the bigger kids, with a look of total frustration on his face, starts mumbling loudly. Then it hits me: These kids were from a local school for the deaf. They're on their annual field trip. As the adults shot me looks, I started signing and didn't stop until our group fell a hole behind.

## PARTYING WITH TIGER

**NOTAH BEGAY III / 10.04**

▸ Tiger and I were at a Sigma Chi fraternity party at Stanford trying, like every other guy, to familiarize ourselves with some friendly coeds. We figured the best place to scope the scene would be from the outskirts of the dance floor. Unfortunately, there were so many people getting their groove on that we couldn't see a damn thing. We looked at each other and then jumped on top of the DJ's



**GREG NORMAN / CHUBBY CHANDLER / BOB TOSKI / SAMUEL L. JACKSON**





five-foot-tall speakers and proceeded to shake our rumps. It wasn't long before we found some alluring dance partners.

## AUGUSTA PLAYED BACKWARD
**DICK HELMSTETTER / 07.03**

▸ A good friend of mine is a member at Augusta National. You don't know fun until you've played that great course backward. The members do it as a lark on occasion. You start on the No. 1 tee and play to the 18th green. The second hole—the hardest on the "course" because it's unreachable in two—goes from near the 18th green to the 17th green. Then you play to the 16th green, another tough hole. They play the whole course that way.

## PLAYING WITH THE COLONEL
**LAURA BAUGH / 01.04**

▸ I've been around. I played with Colonel Sanders once. *The* Colonel Sanders, the Kentucky Fried Chicken guy. I was only 17, and what a weird experience that was. Talking to him was like talking to a Disney character. He looked odd in a golf shirt. I just couldn't get over it. What shocked me was, the Colonel could flat hit it. He told me he loved golf more than chicken.

## ISLAND GREENS
**PETE DYE / 07.02**

▸ People have the idea I'm in love with island greens. Well, I've designed two in 50 years. Once you're stereotyped, it's almost impossible to lose it.

## MINI-TOUR FISTICUFFS
**BOO WEEKLEY / 12.07**

▸ The mini-tours were so unpredictable. On the last day of a tournament in Alabama, me and another guy are tied for the lead when he hooks it left toward some water. "Get down!" I said. "Sit! Land soft!" His ball goes in the water anyway. He growls at me, "Don't ever talk to my golf ball." I said, "Hey, I was just trying to be nice." He said, "I think I'm going to kick your ass," and the next thing you know, we're on the ground, rolling around, throwing punches. Two things happened within the next 30 minutes: I got back on my feet before he did, and I won the tournament.

## UNIQUE SCORECARD
**DAVE STOCKTON / 09.06**

▸ My wife, Cathy, owns what I believe to be a world record. She has a scorecard with every score from 1 through 8 on it. In her round of 89, she had a hole-in-one, a birdie, a par, some bogeys and a collection of "others."

## MISSING YOUTH
**DOUG SANDERS / 08.03**

▸ If I could jump in a time machine and go back 30 years, I'd do it in a second. Golden years, my ass.

## THE RANKIN RULE
**JUDY RANKIN / 11.04**

▸ If you can't hit a 7-iron into some par 4s, you're playing the wrong tees. When you think about it, the only one who cares that you're playing a shorter course is you.

## LAND-MINE ARCHITECTURE
**TOM DOAK / 10.05**

▸ Imagine a hole on which you've buried three land mines. The better player has been informed the land mines are there, but the hacker hasn't been told anything. Now, the poor player will traipse down the fairway without a thought. Given the laws of chance, he'll probably avoid the mines. The better player won't be able to take a step without fear. That's how I approach course design. My objective is to make it difficult for the better golfer by incorporating challenging but subtle features only the trained eye can see, while allowing

BAUGH: BEN VAN HOOK • SANDERS: DARREN CARROLL



WIE: BEN VAN HOOK

**"BY THE TIME I'M OLD, GOLFERS WILL BE SHOOTING 54S. YOU PROBABLY WON'T LIVE TO SEE IT, BUT I WILL."**
**—MICHELLE WIE / 08.04**

the hacker to play his usual game. An example would be the collection areas around the greens at Pinehurst No. 2. The hacker might have only one way to play onto the green—maybe with a putter. The better player has the options of putting, flopping or pitching into the bank. He chooses knowing that option can blow up in his face.

## THE COMMISH DELIVERS
**TIM FINCHEM / 10.03**

▸ When I was 10, I had a paper route. One year I delivered my papers through a hurricane. My mother was against the idea, but my dad, who was a sergeant in the Marine Corps, overruled her. I was determined to deliver my papers. I wrapped each one in its plastic bag and stuck it inside the screen door of every house on the route. Not another human was outdoors except me. I'm sure it was dangerous, but I never saw it that way. The eye of the hurricane passed over me during the route; it was an exhilarating sight and the greatest adventure of my life to that point. I was never prouder than when I came home soaked, my papers delivered.

## RULING WISDOM
**TOM MEEKS / 06.04**

▸ Charlie Yates at Augusta National tells of Bob Jones' dad being pressed into service as a rules official in one of the early years of the Masters. It had rained hard the night before the final round, and at the 12th hole a player requested relief from casual water. The Colonel asked him where he stood in the tournament. "Eighteen over," the player says. The Colonel says, "Hell, do anything you want," and walks away.

## FEAR OF LOSING CONTROL
**JACK NICKLAUS / 04.04**

▸ When I fly in a helicopter, I insist there be two sets of controls, one for me in case something happens to the pilot. I'm no expert, but I know enough to at least get the thing on the ground. Nothing scares me like the thought of not being in control.

## THE WAIT THAT SATISFIES
**DAVID GRAHAM / 06.06**

▸ For years, Jack would invite me to Augusta National for practice rounds the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the week before the Masters, and I used it to pick his brain. I asked him once why he made such a long backswing—his shoulder turn was second to none. Jack thought for a minute and said, "Good shots are worth waiting for."

## DO AS I SAY, NOT AS I DO
**BRANDEL CHAMBLEE / 06.12**

▸ Practice round, 1995 British Open at St. Andrews. Justin Leonard and I are playing Mark Brooks and Bob Estes. It's an all-University of Texas affair, and we're having a great time. We come to the 16th, a short par 4. I hit driver, and Mark really scolds me. "What are you thinking?" he says. "You never hit driver here. If you drive it into one of those Principal's Nose bunkers or the Deacon Sime bunker beyond it, you can be there forever. There's O.B. right, you've got those bunkers, and hitting driver is the stupidest thing you can do. The right play is a 4-iron." Fast-forward to Sunday. I hadn't played well and was back home watching the finish on TV. Mark is near the lead standing on the 16th tee, and what club does he pull? That's right, his driver. He hits into the Deacon Sime bunker, makes double bogey and finishes one shot out of the John Daly-Costantino Rocca playoff. Now, I can't wait to see Mark, and a month later I run into him. He's walking one way, head down, I'm coming the other way, and when he gets five steps from me he says—without lifting his head and without stopping—"Don't say an effing word. The situation had changed."

## IRON MAN'S STREAK
**DANA QUIGLEY / 11.06**

▸ I played 278 consecutive Champions Tour events, the ones where I was eligible. When I came off the course after winning the Long Island Classic in 1997, I got word that my father had died. I was upset and crying, and for some reason I blurted out, "There's a new Iron Man in town. I'm going to play every damned week." I did, going from age 50 to 58 without missing a tournament.

## BIG TIPPER
**KEN VENTURI / 12.04 & 08.13**

▸ Frank Sinatra and I were waiting for our car to be brought up after dinner. A kid brings the car and hands me the keys. I reach for my money clip, but Frank pushes my hand aside. "Kid, in the whole

time you've been doing this, what's the most you've ever been tipped?" The kid kind of blushes and says, "A hundred dollars, Mr. Sinatra." Frank peels off two C-notes and says, "Here's two hundred. Have a nice night." The young man is ecstatic. Frank, obviously proud of himself, says to the kid, "By the way, who tipped you the hundred bucks?" The kid says, "You, Mr. Sinatra, when you were here last week."

## BIG CAT MEETS A BIG DOG
**HANK HANEY** / 05.05

▸ I have a dog named Chunk. He's a Bouvier and weighs 100 pounds. When people come to my house, they see Chunk and immediately take a step backward. When Chunk senses their fear, he starts growling. I always have to be there to make sure there's no disaster. I'd told Tiger I had a dog named Chunk and that he was size large—that was all I told him—and the first time he met him, I heard the door open from another room and thought, *Oh my God, Tiger's going to be torn apart*. I bolted into the room just as Tiger was saying "Hi, Chunk" and patting him on the head. Tiger doesn't have a lot of fear about anything. My dog licked Tiger's hand and went back to sleep. Tiger gets along with dogs like nobody I've ever seen.

## RAISING TIGER
**EARL WOODS** / 02.04

▸ Tiger and I were in our motel at a junior tournament. He was 11. Out of the blue he asked, "What's male menopause?" We talked about it for an hour. Then he asked, "What's the immigration policy of Australia?" That took another hour. Tiger then said, "Dad, what's . . . " I didn't let him finish. I put his butt in bed.

## BUMPED BY JACK
**LOU HOLTZ** / 04.09

▸ At home I have a copy of the April 21, 1986, issue of Sports Illustrated. I'm on the cover with the blurb, "Can Lou Do It?" I'd just arrived at Notre Dame, and with spring football underway I was the focal point of that week's coverage. It's a special issue to me because it's the only one in existence. When Jack Nicklaus shot 30 on the back nine that Sunday and won his sixth Masters, they tore up the cover with me on it and put Jack on there. The people there sent me the cover—the entire issue, actually—that never made it to the newsstands. If there's a reason to be kicked off the cover, I guess Jack winning his sixth Masters is a pretty good one.

## RANK HAS ITS PRIVILEGES
**HUBERT GREEN** / 03.05

▸ One year I was paired at the Bob Hope with President Ford, Clint Eastwood and Mr. Hope. As we're standing on the first tee, Moose Wommack, who was a rules official, came up to me. "We need to get around in 4½ hours, so keep your group in position. Don't get behind." I said, "Let me get this straight: You want me to tell the host of our tournament, the president of the United States and Dirty Harry to pick up their balls and get moving? I think not. We're not playing fast, and we're doing it very slowly, if you get my drift. Goodbye, Moose."

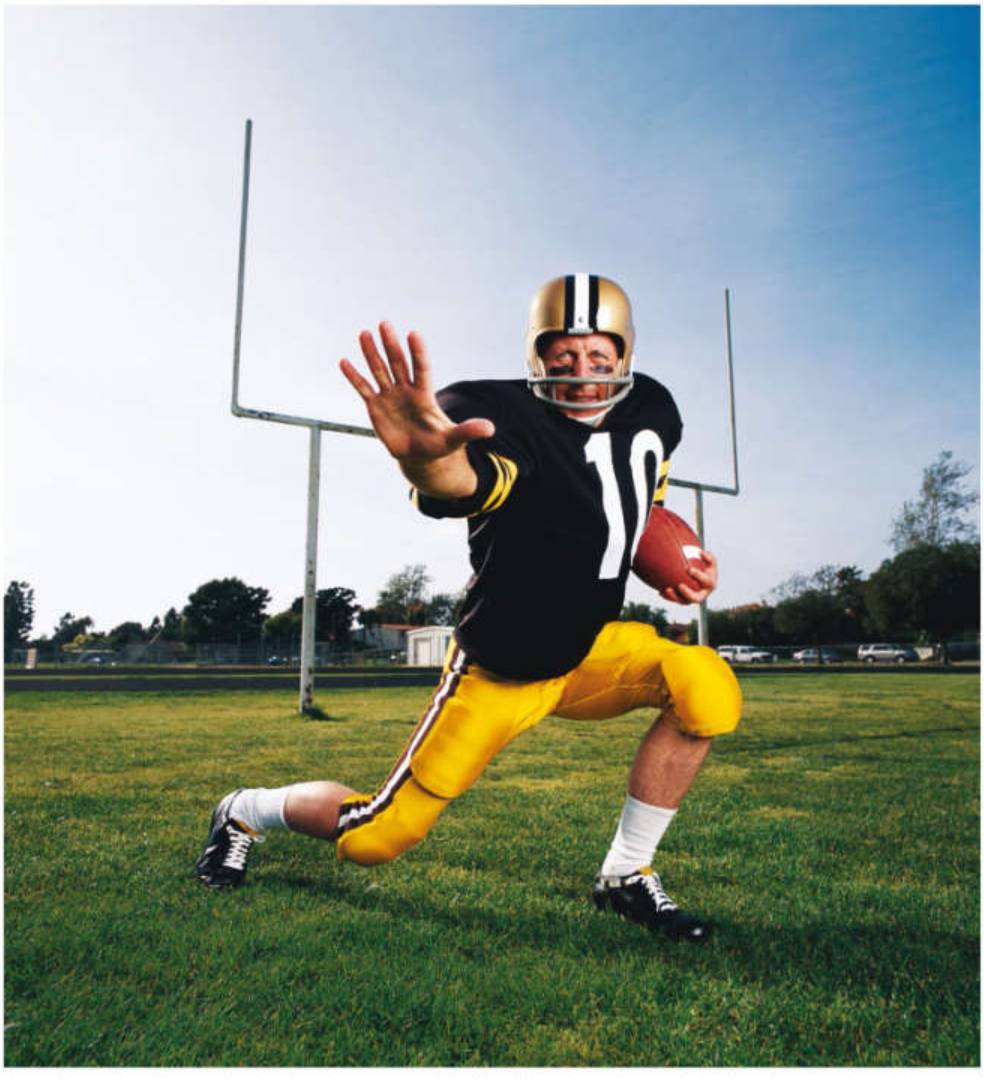
## THE CONCESSION
**MILLER BARBER** / 11.05

▸ The 1969 Ryder Cup had an element of intrigue not everybody knows about. You've heard how Jack Nicklaus conceded the putt to Tony Jacklin on the last hole on the last day, the competition ending up tied. [The U.S. team, as the defending champion, retained the Cup.] Jack has said that he conceded the putt purely out of sportsmanship, but I was on the team and none of us players believed that. See, our captain that year was Sam Snead. He sat Jack down in the morning the first day and in the afternoon the second day because he didn't want Jack to get worn out. Jack wanted to play and was upset about being benched. Most of us believe Jack conceded the putt at least in part to get back at Sam. And it worked, because behind the scenes Sam was furious that Jack didn't make Jacklin hole that two-footer.

## RYDER CUP CAPTAINCY
**TONY JACKLIN** / 09.02

▸ The one thing I sought from my players was respect. Love was optional.

**"PLAYING GOLF BEATS HAVING YOUR BELL RUNG." —HALE IRWIN, IN A COLORADO REPLICA UNIFORM** / 06.03



IRWIN: JOEY TERRILL



TREVINO: DARREN CARROLL

**"I KNOW PEOPLE IN DALLAS. TRUST ME, OSWALD DIDN'T ACT ALONE."**
**—LEE TREVINO / 05.02**

SOB. When I got the thing stopped down near the green, I immediately got a royal chewing out from my wife. I couldn't blame her. She'd been in the passenger seat the whole time.

## GAMESMANSHIP
**LANNY WADKINS / 04.06**

▸ I gave Seve headaches. I was 4-0 against him in the Ryder Cup. He'd try to intimidate you, but you just had to throw it right back at him. At The Belfry in 1985 on the first hole of a four-ball match, his coin was in my line, and I asked him to move it. I pulled my putt, but my ball struck his coin, glanced to the right and went in the hole. "You do that on purpose!" Seve said. "You make me move my coin so you bounce the ball off of it!" I just looked at him and said, "That's right, Seve. I'm that f------ good."

## ONCE A KILLER . . .
**BILLY CASPER / 04.05**

▸ I was at the Ryder Cup last year for a thing called the Captains Challenge. Former Ryder Cup captains stood on the tee of a par 3 and hit shots with the groups that came through. If the amateur hit it inside both captains, he got a new putter and a dozen balls. If he hit it inside one of us, he got a dozen balls. I drew Lanny Wadkins, and he was ruthless. He knifed one shot after another stiff to the hole. The poor amateurs, their shoulders sagged every time Lanny swung. He couldn't help himself—once a killer, always a killer. Me, I knifed shot after shot into the water—on purpose. You've got to send a guy to the parking lot with a dozen balls, don't you? The way Lanny was bearing down, you'd think he paid for those balls himself.

## A FIRST FOR WOMEN
**JOANNE CARNER / 03.03**

▸ I was the first woman in America to receive a full-ride golf scholarship. I went to Arizona State. I had to work part-time, but I got tuition, room and board. I'm very proud of that, and we had a great team. The men's team finished fifth in the NCAA Championship one year, and they couldn't beat us.

## DEFYING DEATH
**EVEL KNIEVEL / 08.05**

▸ I'd make a jump on a motorcycle before I'd jump with a golf cart again. In the mid-'70s I played a lot of golf at Rivermont in Alpharetta, Ga. The 17th hole there is a par 3 that's steeply downhill. The path has a series of hairpin turns, and if you ignore them you'll just keep going over a huge ledge. The guys I hung out with down there pointed out that if you gathered enough speed, you could go over the cliff and land where the path resumes farther down the hill. For days they dared me to make the jump, and when I came to the hole in a foul mood one afternoon—I wasn't playing well—I just went for it. Halfway down the hill I realized I'd made a mistake. You have no idea how unstable a three-wheel golf cart is when it becomes airborne. By the grace of God I made a perfect three-point landing, but the tires were like basketballs, and the cart bounced like an

## DEALING WITH PRESSURE
**STACY LEWIS / 07.13**

▸ When you're under pressure in golf, your heart will pound, you'll sweat and maybe even shake. That's OK. Don't fight that. The trick—and I say trick because it took me years to learn—is to slow down your brain. All the physical things can race like mad, but as long as you think slowly, you'll be OK. Once you learn to control your thinking, you'll welcome the adrenaline.

## GET A GRIP
**PEGGY KIRK BELL / 07.07**

▸ Too many new players hold the club too far into the palm of the left hand, which costs them a lot of control, hand speed and feel. Here's a tip for the correct left-hand grip: Place the club at your side and grasp the handle as though you were lifting a suitcase. When you grip a suitcase handle, you instinctively place it along the base of your fingers, no matter how heavy it is. Now just meld your right hand onto the left, the handle also running along the fingers of the right hand. Simple.

## SPREAD THE SEEDS
**JACKIE BURKE JR. / 05.04**

▸ At the top of the backswing, imagine your right hand is filled with seeds. You want to spread those seeds on the ground evenly over as wide a distance as you can. Through impact, you can only disperse those seeds properly if you maintain an angle in your right wrist. If you flip your right wrist too soon, those seeds will fly up in your face or go anywhere but across the ground in front of you. I believe in throwing the club aggressively into the ball

with your right hand, but you'll only get power and accuracy if you release the club as if you were spreading those seeds.

## GOLF'S SPEED LIMIT
**BYRON NELSON / 05.03**

▸ Swing the club as though you were driving 60 miles an hour on the freeway. Not too fast, but not deathly slow. Once in a while, if the risk isn't great, you can push your swing to 70, but never go faster than that. At my best I could go 80 on occasion, but that's too fast for the average golfer.

## FEEDBACK FROM PRACTICE
**PHIL RODGERS / 02.03**

▸ Pay attention when you practice. The short game especially. Very few golfers actually watch how the ball is spinning, how high it's flying, where it lands on the green, how far it rolls. They rake another ball in front of them before the one they just hit is halfway to the hole. Concentrate. Watch the ball. The feedback will tell you what to do next.

## OUTRAGEOUS GAMBLING
**DOUG FORD / 05.07**

▸ After I turned pro, I was in a pro-am at Miami Beach, and there was a big calcutta. There was $10,000 in the pot, but I wasn't entitled to any because the pros were playing for a small purse. When we went to tee off, I noticed one of my amateur partners looked awfully familiar. Turned out I'd won a pro-am in Detroit with him as a partner, with him playing at scratch. His handicap in Florida: 8. It turned out the other two guys were every bit as bad—or good, as the case might be. They both were excellent players but were getting a bunch of strokes. I holed my second shot on a short par 4 for an eagle, and it was the only time I helped them all day. My father, who was following me, was horrified. "These guys are cheaters, Doug," he said. Was he ever right, but it's the job of whatever committee they had to enforce handicaps, not the players in the field. Still, the looks I was giving the guy must have made him nervous, because he sidled up to me and said, "Don't worry, we'll take care of you." Well, when it was over and they'd won the 10 grand without breaking a sweat, I'm standing in the clubhouse when the amateur walks by me, accompanied by a cop, and leaves the building. When the cop came back in alone, I asked him, "Did he just leave?" The cop said, "Yeah, and I should have let him get hit over the head in the parking lot. He didn't even tip me." I'll tell you, Florida was a wild place.

## TAKING UP THE GAME LATE
**LARRY NELSON / 05.08**

▸ When I went to Florida, I knew very little about the rules and proper etiquette. In one tournament, I hit my ball down in a hazard. I went in and started picking up rocks, sticks and stuff so I could hit the ball. One of the guys I was playing with stood there, stunned. I started to pick up a leaf and said, "Can I move this leaf?" He stared at me for a minute and said, "If you pick up that leaf, you'll be lying 12."

## NIGHTMARES
**TOM WATSON / 07.04**

▸ I've had nightmares about golf. Who hasn't? I have two bad, recurring dreams. In one, I'm putting on a green that is cone-shaped, and the hole is at the top of the cone, so the ball either rolls back to my feet or goes past the crest and 30 feet away on the other side. In the other dream, I'm boxed in and don't have room to swing. Something vague is crowding me—the gallery maybe, or ropes, or something I can't pinpoint. I used to dream I was falling, which is the most common dream people have. That dream stopped. The golf dreams stayed.

## LONG DRIVING
**SEAN (THE BEAST) FISTER / 03.06**

▸ When I swing the club at 150 miles per hour and hit it absolutely pure, it feels like a whiff. The club is designed so that if I unload the shaft correctly and catch the ball dead in the middle of the sweet spot, the transfer of energy is so efficient that I feel nothing. In long driving, feedback is for losers.

## HOUSE CHORES
**BUBBA WATSON / 04.13**

▸ I'm a little embarrassed to admit it, but I don't change the light bulbs at home. I let Angie do that. For one thing, she's 6-foot-4, a little taller than me. But the main thing is, if the bulb broke and I cut my hand, I couldn't play golf. And that would be bad.

## THE DAREDEVIL
**LYDIA KO / 03.14**

▸ I tried bungee jumping in Queensland. There was water about 40 meters below. I'm terrified of heights, but I told myself, *Forty meters is nothing. It's a lob wedge*. They fastened me into the harness. I looked down, and the distance suddenly appeared more like a driver. But I worked up my courage, and I did it. Some time later, in Auckland, we visited the Sky Tower. It's the tallest structure in New Zealand. And what did they have there but bungee jumping. From almost 200 meters. That time, I passed. There's a big difference between 40 meters and 200 meters. There's also a big difference between water below and concrete.

## PERFORMING FOR PROS
**VIN SCULLY / 03.12**

▸ I miss my friend Jim Murray. Jim was a great sportswriter and an avid golfer. He thought of Riviera as his cathedral, and golf as his religion. One day we were playing at Bel-Air. There's a bridge that spans a canyon on the 10th hole there. I look back, and Jim is fussing with his bag. He retrieves a ball and drops it into the canyon. I asked him what he's doing. "I'm appeasing the golf gods," he says.

## MEASURING STICK
**CAROL MANN / 10.06**

▸ You say I'm 6-foot-3. I say I'm 5-foot-15. Either way, until Long Jim Barnes was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame, I was the tallest person, man or woman, in the hall.

## PRACTICE AND LUCK
**GARY PLAYER / 10.02**

▸ I was practicing in a bunker down in Texas, and this good old boy with a big hat stopped to watch. The first shot he saw me hit went in the hole. He said, "You got 50 bucks if you knock the next one in." I holed the next one. Then he says, "You got $100 if you hole the next one." In it went for three in a row. As he peeled off the bills he said, "Boy, I've never seen anyone so lucky in my life." And I shot back, "Well, the harder I practice, the luckier I get." That's where the quote originated.

## THE WIZARD OF BANDON
**GRANT ROGERS / 09.13**

▸ In every foursome, one person is always having the most fun. That person might as well be you.

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# Vice is Nice... Very Nice

## Upstart golf ball company wins a gold medal and saves golfers some gold of their own.

What do two 30-something lawyers from Germany—who met surfing in Munich, of all places—know about golf balls?

"We knew we were both avid, if not very good, golfers," says Ingo Duellmann of himself and partner Rainer Stoeckl. "And we knew that the technology was out there to make golf balls as good as any we could already buy, while the internet would allow us to sell them directly to consumers at much more favorable prices. That's what we knew, and we've been proven right."

Since 2012, Duellmann and Stoeckl have lived and breathed golf balls. In less than two years, they became the world's first direct supplier of balls to golfers, starting in Europe and now in the United States and around the world from their website, **vicegolf.com**.

"Price is the key, obviously," says Stoeckl, "but we are certainly not a discount ball supplier. The highest priority for us in everything we do is premium quality and cutting-edge design. The ball, the packaging, our website... everything.

Their commitment to quality was recently verified when two of Vice's golf ball models, the Pro and Pro Plus, won a coveted Gold Medal from Golf Digest in its 2015 "Hot List" of top balls. Vice was the only small company to win the magazine's highest award.

In the article accompanying the Hot List, Golf Digest's editors wrote, "Premium multilayer balls with urethane covers generally are superior because they perform well throughout the bag." Of the two Vice balls, the magazine said, "Multiple layers with a urethane cover offer the tour-desired mix of low driver spin and high wedge spin."

**GOLD MEDAL**
**- 5 of 5 Stars -**
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**Pro and Pro Plus balls by Vice Golf**

The Pro Plus, just released in the U.S., is a four-piece ball with a cast-urethane cover and two layers surrounding the High Energy Speed Core. It's designed to help a wide range of golfers looking for longer distance, outstanding control, low trajectory, and quick stopping on the green.

The Pro ball, which is available in bright White, Neon (lime), and Flamingo (pink), is a three-piece ball with a cast urethane cover, designed for long distance and soft feel. Both balls cost $34.95 a dozen from the Vice Golf website, but the cost drops to $29.95 per dozen for three or four dozen, and to $24.95 per dozen for five dozen or more. Vice also specializes in personalization, printing words, pictures, logos, and just about anything else you'd want on a golf ball for a small additional charge and in just 3 to 5 business days.

Vice Golf makes two other balls—the lower-priced Drive and Tour models—as well as limited-edition hats and a newly announced glove, the Pure, all made to the same exacting standards and quality that earned this young company the highest praise from the world's leading golf publication.

Vice Golf balls, hats, gloves, and other limited-edition products are available only from their website, **vicegolf.com**.

Oh, and if you want to know why the name "Vice"? Because, say the company's founders in unison, "being bad is so good."



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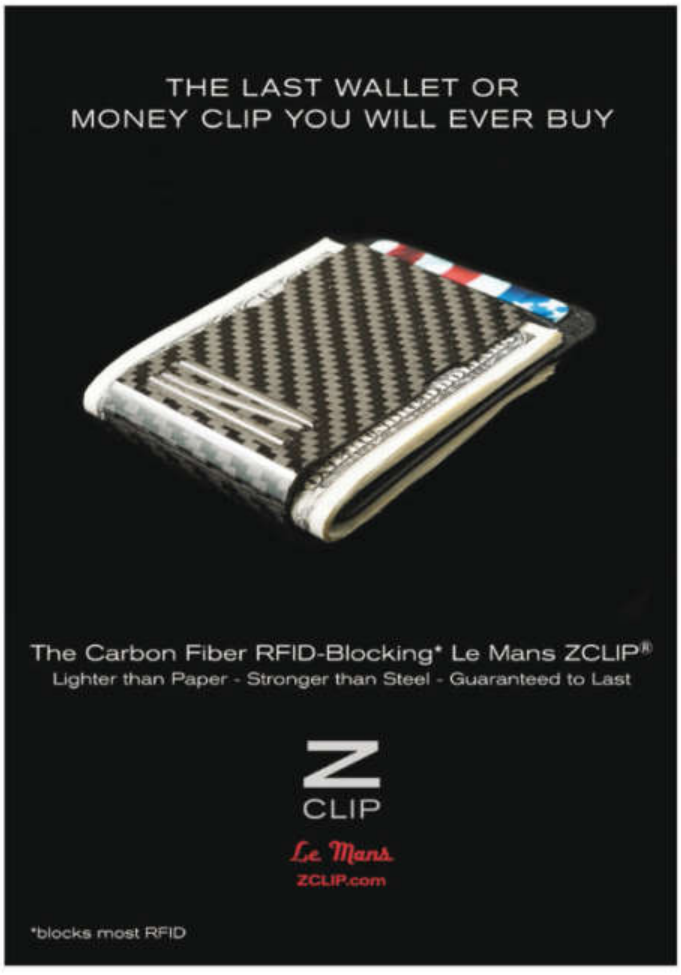


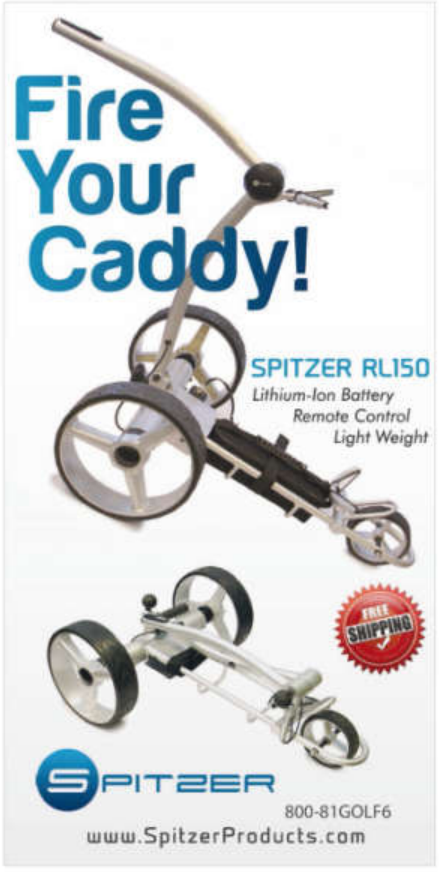

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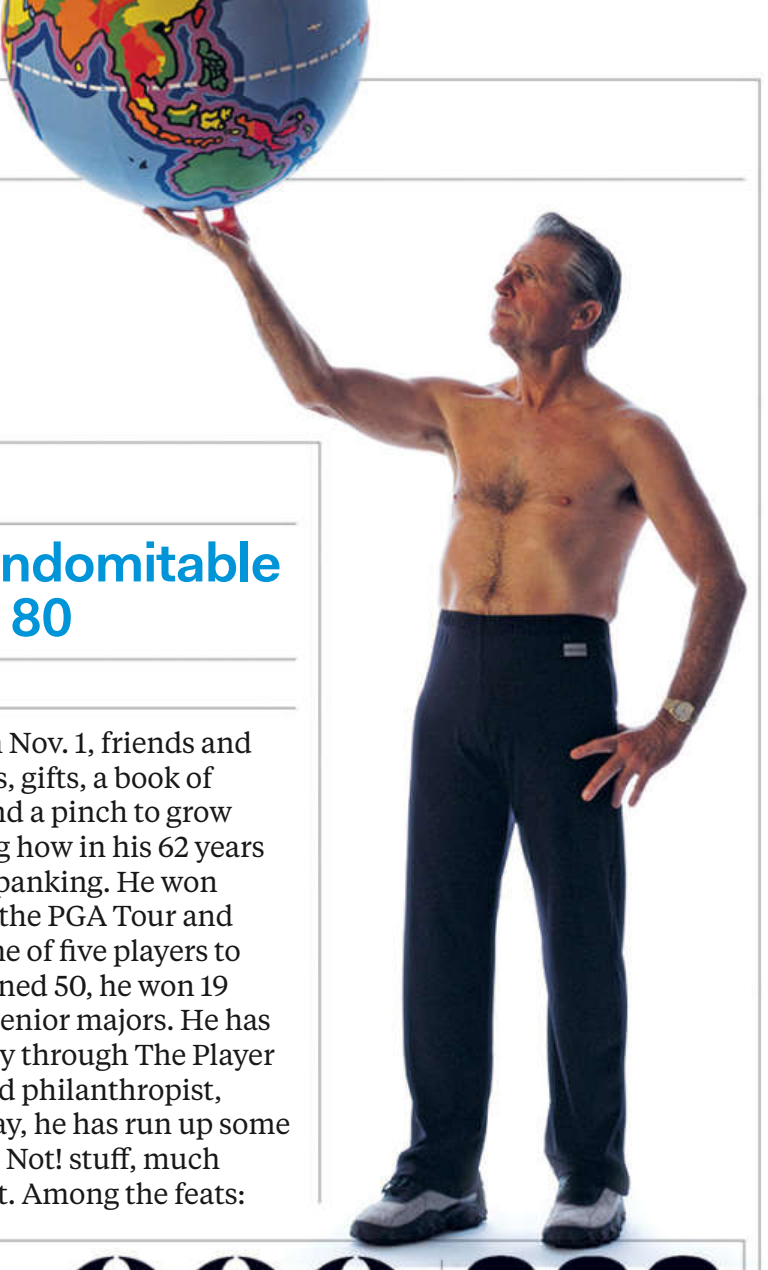


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# Gary the Great

## An appreciation of the indomitable Gary Player as he turns 80

BY GUY YOCOM

For Gary Player's 80th birthday on Nov. 1, friends and family will gather to deliver cards, gifts, a book of memories, 80 birthday spanks and a pinch to grow an inch. Which is only fair, seeing how in his 62 years as a pro, it was Player who did most of the spanking. He won 165 tournaments worldwide, 24 of them on the PGA Tour and nine of them major championships. He's one of five players to capture the career Grand Slam. After he turned 50, he won 19 times on the Champions Tour, six of them senior majors. He has also raised more than $50 million for charity through The Player Foundation. As a golfer, course designer and philanthropist, Player has iced a lot of cakes. ▸ Along the way, he has run up some curious numbers, real Ripley's Believe It Or Not! stuff, much of which Player himself is quick to point out. Among the feats:

**15,000,000**

MILES FLOWN

▸ **Since 1953, Player has flown an estimated 15 million miles. "Certainly more than any golfer, and I think it's more than any human being in history, including pilots and astronauts," he told us in 2002. We're not so sure about the astronauts part, but we know the busiest commercial airline pilots log about 450,000 miles a year, so he outstrips them easily. The 15 million miles susses out to about 6,000 New York-to-L.A. trips.**

**325**

COURSES DESIGNED

▸ Player has designed 325 courses worldwide, according to GaryPlayer.com. If the layouts average 120 acres, that comes to just more than 61 square miles—nearly twice as big as Manhattan and larger than Kahoolawe, the smallest of the Hawaiian Islands.

▸ **Player does 1,000 stomach crunches daily. Over 55 years (we'll give him seven years' worth of days off) that's more than 20 million crunches. Men's Health estimates it takes 22,000 crunches to shed one pound of body fat. So Player has lost 909 pounds, or roughly six full versions of himself.**

**1,000**

STOMACH CRUNCHES A DAY

**820**

MILES WALKED

▸ A three-time Masters champion, Player has competed in 52 Masters. Accounting for missed cuts and 72-hole finishes, he has played 164 official rounds. If each round constitutes a five-mile walk, he has hoofed 820 miles at Augusta National. Add the customary practice rounds, and Gary has easily walked the equivalent of Chicago to Houston.

Photographed by Ben Van Hook for Golf Digest in 2002.




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